

Biographical Narrative of

Richard (Rick) Hissong

I am co-owner and operations manager of Mercer Vu Farms, Inc., in Mercersburg, Pennsylvania. Mercer Vu's mission statement: To produce high quality milk efficiently, safely, and profitably as to benefit management, employees, cows, the environment and the community in which we live. Mercer Vu is currently home for 46 employees, over 2,950 cows plus 2,600 replacement heifers. Our home dairy operation milking 1,500 cows is in Mercersburg, Pennsylvania of Franklin County and we also operate a second dairy operation milking 1,000 cows in White Post, Virginia of Clarke County.

I graduated from The Pennsylvania State University in 1993 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Agricultural Systems Management. Returning home after college, I helped incorporate the family dairy farm to become one-third partner with my father and brother. Mercer Vu finished construction plans of a new dairy complex from 250 animals to 900 milking animals in November 2002 and an expansion to current animal numbers of 1,500 milking in 2006, during both expansions I served as general contractor. My brother and I purchased the assets of Mercer Vu from our parents in the fall of 2013. In the spring of 2015 we grew the business by purchasing a dairy in White Post, VA. The combined herd from both states now has a rolling herd average over 27,500 lbs. per animal.

I manage the daily operations of a modern milking facility; that includes, but is not limited to the waste systems, which consists of mechanical sand separation and solid manure separation. I manage the cropping enterprise of 4,400 plus acres and serve as crop nutrient manager for the purpose of being a concentrated animal feeding operation (CAFO) in both Pennsylvania and Virginia.

In 2017, our farm was recognized by both the Innovation Center for U.S. Dairy and Land O'Lakes SUSTAIN for leadership in conservation and sustainability.

My family consist of with my wife Rebecca, married for 23 years and a Physician's Assistant, Ryan a Junior at Penn State University Park, Rachel a high school Senior, Roy a high school Sophomore, and Bryce eighth grader. All through their love and support allows me to have a compassion for agriculture and the dairy industry.