

## **2019 BMO Farm Family Awards Biography HTA Charolais**

HTA Charolais is a fourth-generation family farm owned and managed by the Airey family. The Airey family has been in the purebred Charolais business for over forty-six years, since Harry and Joan Airey purchased their first Charolais heifers in 1972. Currently, the operation consists of 150 purebred females with an annual bull sale in March. The farm is located west of Rivers, Manitoba.

HTA Charolais is currently owned by Shawn and Tanya Airey, who bought the herd from Harry and Joan (Shawn's parents) in 2013. Shawn, Tanya, Harry, and Joan are all involved in the day-to-day operations of the farm. Tanya and Shawn are also raising their two children (who will be the fifth generation) on the farm to help them understand how agriculture takes care of nature. Both children have participated in 4-H since preschool. Shawn and Tanya are involved in the local 4H club to support their children and to teach them about the importance of caring for the land and the community.

Tanya and Shawn are actively contributing to the agriculture sector in Manitoba by continuing to develop the husbandry and management practices of HTA Charolais to produce better cattle. Moreover, both Harry and Shawn have been active members of the Manitoba Charolais Association to improve the Charolais breed in Manitoba. Shawn is currently Past-President of the Manitoba Charolais Association and serves as the Manitoba Charolais Association's representative on the Canadian Charolais Association. He sits as Chair of the Breed Improvement Committee which is responsible for moving the breed forward within the cattle industry today.

Tanya was part of the organizing committee that hosted the National Charolais Junior Show known as CCYA in Brandon, MB in July 2018. This event brings youth together from all over Manitoba and across the country and includes a variety of individual and team activities that develop valuable skills for future endeavors in the agricultural industry. HTA Charolais welcomed the participants and their families to their farm as they hosted one of the educational components of the conference.

HTA Charolais is located on land that includes various soil types and has creeks running through it. To ensure responsible land stewardship, the Aireys closely monitor pastures and forage ground to ensure best grazing and growing practices are followed and to avoid creating areas where a lack of moisture leads to erosion or runoff, which would negatively impact fields and waterways.

In January 2016, HTA Charolais was named Manitoba Charolais Purebred Breeder of the Year. In 2017, HTA Charolais raised and sold the highest selling Charolais bull in Manitoba - HTA Contender 605D.