



Prakash awakes from his cot in the family’s small mountain hut in Nepal. Taking a deep breath, filling his lungs with the fresh mountain air, the boy hurries outside to meet his dad. Their herd of goats is already stirring in the chilly air, as the first rays of sunlight stream into the dimly lit barn.

Grabbing a few Ultimate EZ bottle milkers, he applies the milking systems to the animals. Since purchasing these handy milkers manufactured by EZ Animal Products, milking their herd of goats has become a delight. Now instead of milking each animal by hand, the Ultimate EZ systems significantly decrease chore time.

Meanwhile, at the edges of Saudi Arabia’s Empty Desert, Ali gathers his caravan of camels and prepares them for milking. His work has also become easier since he learned of the Ultimate EZ milking systems. Having tested this system, he wouldn’t want to milk the camels by hand anymore.

Suraj from India, who manages a herd of water buffaloes, has also been excited by how the revolutionary milking system has made his life more manageable. From reindeer farms in the snowy, wind-whipped forests of Norway to horse farms located on the breathtaking steppes of Kazakhstan, there are more stories of homesteaders whose livelihoods have been improved by user-friendly products of an American company.

The Early Years

Every story has a beginning, and this one begins on Standing Rock Sioux Indian reservation in North Dakota. There, Buck Wheeler, (now-owner of EZ Animal Products) was raised. He enjoyed the freedom of the sweeping reservation and the friendships he formed there. The community was tight-knit and rather self-sufficient, much like our Amish and Mennonite communities.

On the reservation, young Buck was surrounded by skilled carpenters and craftsmen of various trades. Those years were pivotal for him and would set the stage for his entrepreneurial future. Without his experience on the reservation, folks from all over the world might still be milking their camels, goats, sheep, water buffaloes, mares, and more by hand.

“We had milk cows on the reservation,” he explained during a recent visit to his home in Minnesota. “But they weren’t pure bred; they were mixed.”

Because of this, milking them was more difficult. Holsteins and other species release their milk more easily, and when Buck struggled to milk the cattle as a young lad, he was sure there was a way to improve the overall milking experience.

In his small garage in Minnesota, his brand slowly began taking shape. At that time, he couldn’t imagine what

would follow. In 1995, he founded EZ Animal Products and incorporated in 1998, a business dedicated to manufacturing and providing products to make the work of a dairy homesteader easier.

Today, the company he and his wife Karen started in their garage has become a friend to folks hailing from all walks of life, from the Plain communities in North America to villages in the deserts of Dubai and the jungles of India.

The Wheelers’ son, John, has been a wonderful asset to the family business, working alongside his parents for the past thirty years. Much of this wouldn’t be possible without his expertise.

Releasing a new product each year since its inception in 1995 has been the model of EZ Animal Products. Through thick and thin, they have remained committed to the varied needs of their customers. Recently, they have focused on cream separators and milk cooling units. Due to customer feedback, these products were greatly needed for homesteaders as well as larger business applications.

“Necessity has been the mother of all our inventions,” Mr. Wheeler states simply.

His early experience with cows served him well, even though the cattle weren’t dairy cows. “They milked hard, and I needed to separate the cream from the milk,”



he recalls, reflecting upon his boyhood days. “Not only did I need to separate the cream every day, but I also needed to clean the hand-cranked cream separator.”

The separator was so difficult to crank, Buck nearly despaired. He resolved to make something that would be more user-friendly.

Fast forwarding to the present, he and Karen have forged strong business connections with Katya Luniova. Born in Ukraine, Katya comes from a dairy community. This entrepreneur has business connections with manufacturing companies in several countries, including Greece.

The electric and hand-cranked cream separators EZ Animal Products sells have been made possible by Katya. She provided the Wheelers with valuable insight into the equipment their customers were looking for and was instrumental in securing the import of the milk coolers. Homesteading is becoming popular again, and cream separators help small families easily make dairy products like cheese.

New Products

In 2024, EZ Animal Products added the Slavic Beauty cream separators to their product line. Various sizes and models are available with capacities ranging from 26 to 92 gallons per hour. The 26-gallon model is perfect for small family farms with just a few cows. This model is made of anodized aluminum or food grade poly from parts manufactured in Ukraine.

Meanwhile, The larger models fit the bill for small creameries and can accommodate herds of over twelve cows. The electric models are quiet. Some models feature spinning stainless-steel disks, while others are anodized aluminum. Larger models are made out of food grade stainless steel. The electric and hand-cranked versions are compatible for milk from cows, goats, sheep, and even camels.

Separating cream can be tricky. For optimal results, it is essential that milk is separated while it is still warm. “Milk is around 98° from the cows,” Wheeler says.



The sooner the separation process begins, the better. Waiting until the milk has cooled gives less desirable yields.

Many in the Plain communities have favored cream separators since EZ Animal Products introduced them. Mervin Zimmerman, owner of Sandy Acres Family Farm, shares his thoughts on the cream separator he bought for dairy production. “The first thing that impressed us is that everything performed as advertised. The new EZ Coil Hose keeps everything clean and tidied up.”

The family also says they were able to significantly increase their butter production since using their cream separator.

Due to industry demand, Wheeler also unveiled his company’s portable milk cooling units this past year. With five different sizes, these units have helped small farms and creameries cool their milk efficiently. Instead of investing in large bulk tanks they will never fill, folks are happy with an alternative for their smaller needs.

The cooling units provide attractive insulation ratings. Sizes range widely and feature capacities of 15, 30, 60, 90, and 115 gallons (up to 435 liters). Any units over 115 gallons are available in four sizes up to 264 gallons and in 220 V / 60 Hz by special request.

“These units keep the milk chilled at 37-38°,” Wheeler states. “An agitator runs every fifteen minutes, for the duration of one minute. This consistently keeps milk stirred and avoids freezing from occurring at the bottom of the tank.”

The more quickly milk is chilled, the longer it remains fresh. The design promotes fast-chilling milk to ensure farmers gain shelf life for their dairy products.

EZ Animal Products has become the exclusive US distributor for the Inox Steel Technical’s portable stainless steel milk cooling units. Customers appreciate the detailed design, enhanced safety features, and productivity-boosting components.

Top: Separating cream & 2% whole milk with the new separator. The company is dedicated to manufacturing equipment for various dairy applications.

Bottom: As the milk is poured into the cooler, it must be strained to remove any dirt.

Shown is a man milking a camel in Abu Dhabi, UAE with an EZ Animal Products milker.




An outlet elbow eliminates milks foaming during extraction and a reducer tube is included with each cooler for filling bottles and jars at no extra cost. A safety feature stops the agitator when the lid is opened, protecting the operator. All cooling units operate at a standard voltage of 110-120 V.

Moving Forward Together

Continued innovations and product improvements are central to EZ Animal Products' identity. Their research and manufacturing operations consistently strive to introduce practical, new products while also seeking opportunities to enhance existing products to meet the expectations and demands of their diverse clientele across seventy-four countries.

The business aims to continue offering high-quality products suitable for all dairy applications globally. They seek new products to enhance convenience for their customers and support cost-effective practices for homesteaders and small businesses.

While their global reach is undeniable, the Wheelers are family-oriented and dedicated to providing products to even the smallest community, aiming to improve the

livelihoods of folks who care for horses, sheep, goats, camels, water buffaloes, and more. The company places priority on customer service. "When you call us, you'll hear a live voice on the other end," they remarked emphatically. "We recognize the value of speaking with a human when calling a company." 

EZ Animal Products is owned by the Wheeler family. For additional information regarding their products, you may contact them at: 507.213.2126. Their mailing address is: 1301 9th Avenue, Humbolt, IA 50548. They can also be reached via email at info@udderlyez.com. Or visit the company website: www.udderlyez.com to view available products or request a catalog.

Leroy Martin is a freelance writer and photographer. His work appears in various Plain publications. His extensive travels have taken him to hundreds of Anabaptist communities throughout the US and abroad.



Regardless of the size of the dairy operation, an EZ cooler is available to help meet the cooling needs.