

NARCOSLI

Cattle Company Ltd.

Meet the
Durrell-Kishkan
family of Quesnel

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Erin Durrell, a fourth generation cattle rancher, represents the BC Cattlemen's Association at the Canadian Roundtable for Sustainable Beef (CRSB). Erin and her husband, Jeremy Kishkan, along with children Trenton and Henri-Rose, operate Narcosli Cattle Co. Ltd along the Fraser River, near Quesnel and were recently featured by the CRSB in a "Meet the Players" profile and We Heart Local in a BC rancher profile for social media and their website.



Trenton, Henri-Rose, Erin and Jeremy

Meet the Durrell-Kishkan family of Quesnel, British Columbia

Erin Durrell, Jeremy Kishkan, Trenton and Henri-Rose

The Durrell - Kishkan family bought their current ranch property along the Fraser River in 2015 and started the Narcosli Cattle Company. Over the past five years, they have been consistently improving and building every year. They are a predominately black angus cow/calf operation with a specific focus on a smaller framed and more feed-efficient cow. As Erin says, "We focus on low maintenance genetics that work well in the hard grass and rough bush country of BC."

Erin has a long family history of ranching and grew up as the fourth generation on a large family ranch just west of Williams Lake in the bunch grass and open fir country along the Chilcotin River. Erin is a past Cattlemen's Young Leaders mentee and now sits on the BC Cattlemen's Board of Directors, the North Cariboo Agricultural Development Committee, and serves on the Communications and Marketing Committee for the CRSB. The ranch is a CRSB Certified and Verified Beef Production Plus Certified Operation.

What does Sustainability mean to you?

To us sustainability means continuous improvement of the land and resources we use so that it is here for following generations. To manage our cattle in a way that encourages biodiversity in wildlife and in the landscape, and helps improve the natural grasslands by putting nutrients back into the soil. It means maintaining healthy riparian areas and waterways, opening underbrush to maintain a healthy forest, and helping to mitigate wildfire and invasive plant species.

Sustainability also means leadership in our industry and community and working closely with our neighbours, local Indigenous communities, government range and agricultural staff, and elected leaders so that we can sustain a future that is here for everyone.



■ “We focus on running an operation that is socially responsible, economically viable and environmentally sound to assure the next generation has long term viability as continued caretakers of this ranch, this land, and its resources. My grandfather Jack Durrell always said he was just care-taking the land and the ranch for the next generation. My hope is that we can continue his vision for our children and our grandchildren.” ~ Erin Durrell ■

Why did you become a certified sustainable ranch?

We chose to become certified under the CRSB because we know we are already doing a great job of managing our land, resources and our cattle in a responsible manner. We feel that consumers and the public have a keen interest in knowing where their food comes from and knowing that those who produce it are conscientious about how it is produced. The creation and maintenance of public trust and understanding in our industry is so important for so many people and we have created the very best certification tools along the entire value chain to help maintain that.

The CRSB has demonstrated a fantastic vision and collaboration of so many of those invested in the beef value supply chain, and to be a part of the vision that makes Canada a global leader in sustainable beef production is so important to us and to our industry as a whole.

What are your sustainable practices?

Some of the practices we have in place on our ranch include:

- Allowing our mother cows to calve on as much open dry grass as we can with minimal intervention due to genetic selection and feed programs.
- Bale grazing for maximum input into our winter feeding grounds and hayfields in terms of returning nutrients to the soil.
- Employing minimal tillage practices and using our cattle to add organic nutrients back into the soils through grazing management and winter-feeding practices.
- Only working and moving our cattle on horseback with highly skilled cowboys, cowgirls and cattle dogs to ensure low stress handling and minimal impact to soils and grasslands and employ practices such as low-stress fenceline weaning and rotational grazing.
- Maintaining a strong relationship with our vet to ensure we are providing our cattle with the very best in animal welfare and veterinary care when it is needed.



*To learn more about the CRSB and see other certified producers, visit:
www.crsbcertified.ca/consumers/meet-the-players/*