

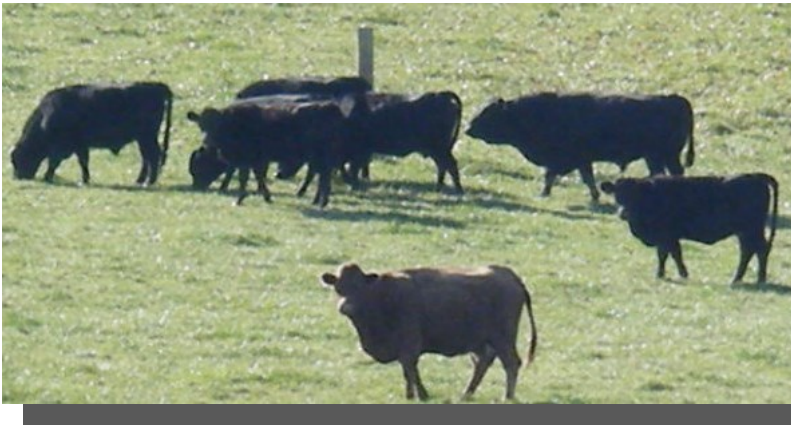
# Novae Vitae Farm

## *“Farm of New Life*

Raised on a Nebraska farm but a computer programmer by profession, Gordon Graham found the old adage true; “You can’t take the country out of the boy.” Springtime always brought a renewal of life to him with emerging plants, green grass, sunshine and young animals.

With his wife Barbara, a clinical therapist, they moved from the city to a rural acreage in 1997. On their acreage they raised a few laying hens and sold farm fresh eggs to their neighbors near Indianola, IA. Their hens roamed the yard and foraged for seeds and insects to supplement their commercial diet.

They moved to their present 40 acre farms south of Carlisle, Iowa in 2003. Here they added Dexter cattle to their enterprise. Beginning with 2 head, they now have 20-30 cows in the herd.



Dexter cattle are a smaller breed that mature between 700 & 800 lbs. They lend themselves well to the Grahams’ grass feeding method of beef production. They cattle get no antibiotics or feed additives to enhance their growth and development. All calves are processed through a state inspected facility to assure wholesomeness to their retail customers. Dexter beef is lean and tasty.

A few years ago, due to growing customer demand they became licensed for egg washing, candling and packaging for retail sale. Their hens continue to be cage-free, lay in nests on hay, and are fed a diet of grains and supplements. They are able to forage outside part of the day when weather permits.

They also sell honey, berries and fruit and have built a greenhouse to extend the growing season.

Both Gordon and Barbara’s main focus is on quality so they are careful not to expand too quickly and they work together to research potential products that will provide a simple and natural way to provide wholesome and healthy food.

Grahams Dexter Beef ,eggs and honey are marketed and sold on the Iowa Food Cooperative website and several central Iowa stores like Scott’s Food in Norwalk, the Gateway Market, Cambell’s Nutrition and Dahl’s on Fluer Drive in Des Moines.

Novae Vitae \* 17460 Dubuque Street , Carlisle, IA.

\*info@novaevitaefarm.com \* 515-989-2821



Pictured L to R: Leah, Gordon,  
Barbara Graham

Assistance provided by the Iowa Heartland Resource Conservation and Development, Inc. \* 301 N. Buxton, Indianola, IA.

Funding for this Producer Profile was provided by the USDA Agricultural Marketing Service—Farmers Market Promotion Program.