

Sunworks Farm



LAPS® AT SUNWORKS FARM

Armena, Alberta, Canada



High welfare. **Zero** gas.



Customer: Sunworks Farm

Location: Armena, Alberta, Canada

High Welfare at Sunworks Farm - The Commercial Integration of the Low Atmospheric Pressure Stunning (LAPS®) System

Sunworks Farm, located in Alberta, Canada, is a certified organic and ethical farming operation run by Ron and Sheila Hamilton. With a firm commitment to animal welfare, environmental stewardship, and clean food, Sunworks has become a beacon for what humane and sustainable agriculture can look like at scale.

As part of their continuous innovation and dedication to animal welfare, Sunworks Farm integrated a **Low Atmospheric Pressure Stunning** (LAPS®) system into their poultry processing operations.

This case study documents their journey, from values and decision-making to implementation, results, and implications for the future of humane slaughter.

We want to say a big “Thank you” to Ron and Sheila, who welcomed our team with warmth and generosity during our visit to Sunworks Farm in September 2025. As part of the visit, we had the opportunity to chat to them about their journey into ethical farming and life on the farm today.

Their story is both inspiring and insightful — you can read the full interview [here](#).





Founders' Journey: From Urban Life to Organic, Ethical Farming

Ron and Sheila began their farming journey with a shared desire to lead healthier lives and raise food with integrity.

Formerly living urban lifestyles, their transition was motivated by personal health concerns and a growing disillusionment with conventional food systems.

“We found this farm here in Armena, Alberta, and we knew it was where we wanted to put down roots.” — Ron Hamilton

The early years of Sunworks were shaped by their determination to learn, adapt, and farm in a way that aligned with their ethical and environmental values.

Over time, the farm grew from a modest operation to a thriving business supplying ethically raised chicken, turkey, beef, pork, and eggs to farmers' markets, grocery stores, and a loyal customer base across Alberta.



A Philosophy Rooted in Ethics

Ethical farming at Sunworks means treating animals with respect, ensuring environmental sustainability, and maintaining transparency with customers. Certified organic status is central to their identity — encompassing non-GMO feed, no antibiotics, access to the outdoors, and regenerative land management.

Animal care is paramount: birds are raised on pasture with plenty of space to express natural behaviours. Their welfare-first philosophy led naturally to a search for a stunning method that minimises stress and aligns with the farm's holistic approach.

Certified Humane® Accreditation

Sunworks Farm is also Certified Humane®, meeting strict animal welfare standards set by Humane Farm Animal Care.

This accreditation ensures animals are raised with compassion — including proper shelter, space to move freely, a healthy diet, and humane handling at every stage, including slaughter.

These standards align with the internationally recognised Five Freedoms of Animal Welfare: freedom from hunger and thirst; discomfort; pain, injury or disease; fear and distress; and the freedom to express normal behaviours.

Together, they reflect Sunworks' deep commitment to treating animals with care, respect and dignity throughout their lives.

The Decision To Use LAPS®



When exploring live bird stunning options, Ron, Sheila, and the Sunworks team evaluated conventional methods like gas and electrical systems.

An opportunity came up for them to test the LAPS® system, and it stood out for its animal welfare benefits.



Key Reasons For Sticking With LAPS®

- Birds remain in their transport drawers, reducing stress.
- The system gradually reduces atmospheric pressure, leading to an irreversibly stunned state and causing minimal distress.
- It prioritises animal welfare and there is no live shacking.
- No need for CO₂ or other gas supply — lowering operational costs and eliminating welfare concerns linked to aversive gases.

“Hanging live birds versus using the LAPS stunner couldn’t be more different. The welfare benefit is incredible.” Ron Hamilton

Life with LAPS®: Operational Impact

The implementation of the LAPS® system has transformed the stunning process at Sunworks. Staff report smoother operations and more consistent results.



Key outcomes include:

- No flapping or vocalisation during stunning.
- A calmer work environment for employees.
- Higher yield consistency and reduced carcass damage compared to previous methods.
- Competitive operational costs when compared to CO2 or electrical stunning.
- These results reaffirmed the farm's belief that humane methods can be ethically, economically and environmentally sustainable.

The Role of LAPS In The Ethical Narrative

Customers of Sunworks are deeply invested in the origins and welfare of their food. By incorporating LAPS® the farm has a tangible, scientifically supported system to back up its ethical claims.

It gives customers an added layer of confidence and reinforces Sunworks' leadership in transparency.

Conclusion

The integration of LAPS® at Sunworks Farm demonstrates that humane stunning systems can succeed commercially while aligning with core values.

Their story is one of innovation, compassion, and commitment — providing a roadmap for farms worldwide that wish to embrace a more ethical approach to animal agriculture.

Sunworks Farm and its use of LAPS® set a high standard in humane poultry processing — one that is both viable today and visionary for the future.



“There’s a lot of scepticism about poultry. But when people learn how we do things-organic, free range, Certified Humane, and processed right on the farm with LAPS - they understand the difference.” — Ron Hamilton