

***Stephanie Rovey had a vision, and never once, she says of her credit union, "did they ever act like we were crazy."***

If you've ever spread Laura Chenel's sumptuous goat cheese on a baguette, there's a good chance the milk that helped to make it great, came from family-owned, Grande Ronde Dairy in Union, Oregon.

The dairy was the vision of Stephanie Rovey. The road she took to open the barn doors was a bit unconventional, but Old West Federal Credit Union believed in her.

"We actually sold the cattle operation to invest more in the dairy, and living in Northeast Oregon, that's not a typical move to make," Stephanie said. "There were some outsiders looking in saying, 'The Rovey's are doing WHAT?' From the get-go, though, Old West was supportive."

Stephanie researched the most innovative goat-milking technology available. Could she bring it to Union? Check. Could she get a new barn large enough for say, up to 800 goats? Check. Old West FCU was right by her side. And it helped that the credit union opened a branch in Union, a community the banks had abandoned years before.

"They were absolutely involved — they periodically checked in during the construction process, during every phase just to see where we were," Stephanie says. "And never once did they act like we were crazy."

It was a good investment for the member-owned credit union. Grand Ronde became the first Grade A dairy in Union County in 30 years, and contracts exclusively to provide milk to Laura Chenel.

As Stephanie says, "We are right where we want to be, right on target, and right on projection."

We couldn't agree more. We think credit union loans are the GOAT — the greatest of all time!



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- Stephanie Rovey, Owner, Grande Ronde Dairy