

## Written Profile



**Farm:** Daugaard Farm

**Location:** Garretson, South Dakota

**Date of Origination:** 1911

**Industry Sector(s):** Corn, Soybeans, Dairy



"Farming in South Dakota is not a short-term obligation, nor is it one to be taken lightly," shares Dennis Daugaard, Governor of South Dakota. Governor Daugaard knows first hand the investment and sacrifices American farmers make each day to provide our food, fiber and natural resources. In addition to providing leadership for a state that proudly recognizes over 2,500 Century Farms, Governor Daugaard is also a member of a century farm family.

The main portion of this house was purchased by Martin Daugaard in 1911. Governor Dennis Daugaard grew up here.

"My grandfather, Martin Daugaard, and several of his siblings immigrated to the United States from Denmark in the early 1900s," shares Governor Daugaard. In 1911, Martin purchased a quarter

section of land in southeast South Dakota and established a farm. Martin's son, Raymond, was born on the farm and took over its operation when his father passed away. While in high school, Governor Daugaard recalls, tough times forced his family to sell their livestock and equipment, but they were able to keep the land. His parents found work in town and took the steps necessary to keep the farm in the family name. After marrying his wife Linda, Governor Daugaard built a house on the farm across the yard from where he grew up. They continue to live there today.

Like many other families in the northern Great Plains, the Daugaard Farm faced its most difficult early challenge during the Depression of the 1930s. The widespread drought and low commodity prices forced the family to become very creative to make ends meet. "My father, Raymond, grew up during these lean years and learned that farmers cannot always count on favorable weather or readily available credit," shares Daugaard. In addition, since Raymond was deaf and communicated through sign language, he had to learn to adapt and persist, despite the partial communication barrier. During the 1970s, his father and mother, who was also deaf, took jobs as custodians so that they could continue to make payments on the farm. They overcame that challenge in the same way the family had endured earlier challenges – through hard work and persistence. "These same qualities guide my work today," shares Governor Daugaard.



Howard Daugaard, Governor Dennis Daugaard's uncle, behind a team of horses pulling a one-row corn planter in the late 1920s.

The Daugaard Farm has existed for a century, in large part, due to hard work and perseverance. "When hard times forced my parents to take work off the farm, their opportunities were limited because they were deaf. Yet, despite some very lean years, they managed to keep the land and raise a family," explains the Governor. Like all agricultural operations, past and present, the Daugaards have overcome natural disasters and fluctuating commodity prices, while adapting to new markets and rapidly changing technologies. "Innovation, hard work and self-reliance helped sustain our farm," continues Daugaard, "and these same qualities will allow future farms and ranches to prosper."

Reflecting on the role of the family farm, Governor Daugaard shares his thoughts. "Our century farm families feel an obligation to their ancestors to keep the land fertile, productive, and just as importantly, in the family. I'm proud of my family's farming heritage and I think my grandfather would be proud to know the farm is still a central part of our family." We are honored to share the story of Daugaard Farm as we celebrate their contribution to **Agriculture's Lasting Heritage**.



The Dennis and Linda Daugaard family.