

## Written Profile

**Farm:** Twin Oak Acres

**Location:** Fountain, MN

**Date of Origination:** 1854

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

"We care for our livestock. We care for our land. In order to produce food and fiber for Americans and the rest of the world, we must continue to do this," shares Scott Winslow of Twin Oak Acres. Embracing this philosophy since the dawning of our nation has enabled Twin Oak Acres to make an impact on **Agriculture's Lasting Heritage** as a Century Farm.

"When people ask me how long we've been here, I tell them we've always been here," chuckles Winslow, whose ancestors came to the new world aboard the infamous Mayflower. Ancestors of Scott Winslow immigrated to this land in 1629 and lived in New York, Massachusetts and Illinois before settling in Minnesota and Kansas. Twin Oak Acres diversified farming operation was established in 1854, four years before Minnesota became a state. A small log cabin originally provided shelter to the family, and later a wood frame house was built in the 1860's which served as the family home until 2000. A new home now sits in the same location.



Pictured L-R: Colin, Jean, Katie and Scott Winslow

Today, the farming operation encompasses over 300 acres. The past century and a half has been colored by continual change. Horses were used to power the farm until the mid 1940's when tractors became prevalent. Today, the Winslows' equipment is improved through cutting edge technology like GPS. "Farmers are quick to adapt to new technology," explains Winslow. "We have to be. We aren't going to feed the world by going back to the way we grew crops in the 1940's. There are a lot of starving people, and they are looking to the American family farm to feed them."

Involvement with the local Farm Bureau has helped the Winslows and Twin Oak Acres by influencing policy development and helping communicate the great contribution of agriculturists to the general public. "Through Farm Bureau, we are also able to help out other farmers," explains Winslow, who headed up a team of farmers to collect fencing and monetary support for fellow agriculturists impacted by past floods. Winslow has been on the board since 1991 and served as the county Farm Bureau President for 11 years.

The Winslows not only enrich the lives of those around them, but the environment as well. They construct ravines to protect the soil and work hard to build up organic matter that keeps soils rich. "If you don't put back in what you take out," explains Winslow, "it won't be here for us to use."

As in any family, the Winslow farming tradition faced its share of challenges over time. But through unpredictable weather and changing economic climate the family has stuck together with the common bond of a love for the land. When looking to the future and contemplating the task at hand to feed an ever growing population, Scott Winslow simply yet confidently states, "We'll get the job done." Scott Winslow's son, Colin, plans to continue the farming operation. Colin will represent the sixth generation of the family to farm the land.

We are motivated by the dedication and perseverance of the Winslow's and proudly recognize their contribution to **Agriculture's Lasting Heritage**.

