

Written Profile

Farm: Bastian Farm
Location: Shannon, IL
Date of Origination: 1863
Industry Sector(s): Grain



"Farmland can be a good investment and provide a good quality of life," shares Leonard Bastian. Leonard understands the value of long-term investments, as his farm has been in operation by the same family for 150 years. We are happy to share the Bastian family's story of **Agriculture's Lasting Heritage**.

The story of this Illinois family farm begins in the 1840's - 1850's, when Leonard's great grandparents emigrated from Alsace Lorraine. Alsace Lorraine is a territory on the Rhine River which was created by the German Empire but remains a French territory today. In the mid 1800's, farming was the main industry of the time and it was only fitting that Leonard's ancestors would continue this tradition.

They purchased 160 acres of land in Illinois, which was a significant portion of land at the time. Today, however, Leonard acknowledges that it is, "too small for today's economy and that of the future". Over time the farm faced challenges brought on by drought, recession, storms and health problems of those managing the farm.

Yet the farm has seen positive change as well. The "land has become more productive thanks to land and crop management through crop rotation and other methods," shares Leonard. Improvements in seed and fertilizers have also advanced production. Leonard is appreciative of the impact Farm Bureau has had on his farm as well, by providing information about new technology, influencing purchasing power, and fostering legislation.

Looking back over the years the farm has been in operation, Leonard remarks that, "increased efficiency through new technology and more efficient equipment have led to better productivity, efficiency and profits, and therefore a better quality of life." We appreciate the hard work exerted by Leonard and his family, to improve the quality of life for others by making a lifelong commitment to **Agriculture's Lasting Heritage**.