

Written Profile

Farm: Mildred Nagel Gentes Farm

Location: Chenoa, Illinois

Date of Origination: 1885

Industry Sector(s): Livestock, Corn, Soybeans, Oats, Alfalfa, Pennycress



"Agriculture will always have a future," states Margaret Haney of the Mildred Nagel Gentes Farm. Margaret doesn't waste any time getting to the heart of her conviction and beliefs. A member of a Century Farm family that has worked the land since the late 1800's, Margaret understands what it takes to maintain a long-lasting farming operation. We are excited to share the story of the Nagel Gentes Farm as we celebrate their contribution to **Agriculture's Lasting Heritage**.

Farming runs in the blood of those who prepare and work the soil on the Mildred Nagel Gentes Farm. Mostly descendants of German immigrants, all of Margaret Haney's ancestors were farmers who had children that continued the family tradition. The new generation of family members, "will continue to have an interest in the family farm," shares Margaret.



Mildred Nagel Gentes Farm

Over the years the family farm has faced many challenges. The Great Depression deeply impacted those farming in the 1930s across the nation, and the Nagel Gentes farm was no exception. The ever-changing variables of weather, insects, and weeds have forced the family to continually make improvements to better the land and the commodities produced. Margaret notes that maintaining the farm in times of war was also a challenge.

Through these challenges the family has risen to the call of sustainability. The farm has grown through challenges by adopting new practices over the years, such as erosion control methods, crop rotation, tillage practices, and new weed control methods. "I feel that farms that are passed on from

generation to generation are better maintained," shares Margaret, as she reflects on the message she hopes her family farm conveys to the general public.

The family has turned to Farm Bureau for guidance over the years through various programs offered. Margaret's father was a life-long Farm Bureau member, and her husband has been a member since he started farming in 1954.

When looking to the future, Margaret is optimistic about new developments in agriculture. "There will be new innovations in all of these areas, including livestock," she explains. We congratulate the Mildred Nagel Gentes Farm on their sustainable practices and their commitment to **Agriculture's Lasting Heritage**.