

Written Profile

Farm: Steele Farm

Location: Bradley Township, Illinois

Date of Origination: 1836

Industry Sector(s): Cattle, Crops, Hay



Situated in Jackson County, Illinois, Steele Farm is brimming with historical significance and tradition. Our family has, "a deep pride in the farm and willingness to keep it in the family for future generations," shares Paul Steele. We are excited to share their story and celebrate their contribute to **Agriculture's Lasting Heritage**.

The land was originally homesteaded in 1807 by Mandavelle Steele. His son William Steele began farming the land in 1833. Son Edward Steele started an oxen powered mill in what is now Steeleville, Illinois. Steele farm began as a grain and cattle operation, and the family continues to farm the same commodities today.

"Our family farm is old and has seen a lot of history," shares Paul Steele. In fact, Paul shares that the current owner's Great-Aunt recalls Indians coming to the farm to trade for eggs. The second house built on the farm was built in 1860 and had tree limbs for rafters. This home was torn down in 1999, and the current house was built.

"Hard work and a willingness to adapt to necessary changes," motivated the members of the Steele family to find success amidst challenging times. The farm has weathered the strains of the Civil War, World War I, World War II, the Korean War, Vietnam, and the two current wars. Severe drought, economic downturns, death in the family, and volatile crop pricing posed challenges throughout the generations.

With a focus on caring for the land and providing for others, the Steele family has continually implemented new technology over time, including soil testing, no till farming, and crop rotation to keep the land healthy and productive.

"There will always be a need for farming, and as time goes by, demand will increase as the world population needs food," shares Paul Steele. We celebrate the hard work and perseverance of the Steele family, and we extend our appreciation for their contribution to **Agriculture's Lasting Heritage**.