

Written Profile



Farm: Sturgell Farms

Location: Paris, IL

Date of Origination: 1832

Industry Sector(s): Corn, Soybeans

“Change is important, things don’t stay the same,” says Travis Sturgell. Sturgell Farms, with 180 years of farming history, is the embodiment of positive change in agricultural growth. The Sturgell family’s astounding story of longevity and hard work is a valued contribution to **Agriculture’s Lasting Heritage.**

Sturgell Farms’ origins in the early 1800s began when the first ancestors moved from Kentucky to homestead the land as farmers. In all the years they spent on the land, it’s no surprise they weathered many hardships. Sturgell says drought, the Great Depression, subsequent debt, and war and death at unexpected times helped to shape the farm into what it is today. He also notes that the business would not have survived without the strong will and hard work from generations of family. “An extended family that believes in the industry is key,” says Sturgell. “It shows that with proper care and willingness to change with the times, the farm can continue as long as the family wishes.”

Sturgell argues the biggest changes came with the advent of computer technology. “We don’t recognize how world activities, such as wars, space exploration, and scientific discoveries effect us on the farm,” says Sturgell. “These happenings lead to new techniques and hardware to continue raising abundant crops on diminishing land.”

Sturgell credits Farm Bureau with helping to fight over-regulation at a time when he says farmers need less of it. He says Farm Bureau helped provide the family with more choices about the future of the farm. “Participation gives individual farms more opportunities to survive,” says Sturgell. “The organization can accomplish changes that as individuals we would never see.”

He makes the point that the general public can be content in the knowledge that there will always be a food supply because there will never be a shortage of people who love farming. Sturgell says that the stewardship provided by family farms creates the foundation for sustainable businesses. “Farming is in the blood, so the desire to continue on by each generation is bred into them,” says Sturgell. We commend Sturgell Farms’ dedication to family tradition and successful agriculture and recognize their contribution to **Agriculture’s Lasting Heritage.**

