

Written Profile

Farm: Todd Farms, Inc

Location: Auburn, Kansas

Date of Origination: 1876

Industry Sector(s): Corn, Soybeans, Wheat, Beef Cattle, Chickens, Sheep, Dairy Goats, Orchard



Six generations ago Paul Todd's ancestors began farming in Kansas, and today we celebrate their contribution to **Agriculture's Lasting Heritage**.

Sustainability is key for maintaining a farm for over one hundred years. "Most farmers are naturally good stewards of what they have," shares Todd, "because if a farmer doesn't care for the land and the environment, he will quickly lose it and any potential to make a living from it. A farmer has to practice conservation - to keep the top soil in place, to keep ground water clean, and to keep the air quality clean as well." Todd explains that managing natural resources is simply good business sense, because each of these factors affect the profitability of the farm.

Over the years Todd Farms has faced many challenges and changes as well. As with many farms in the region, Todd Farms struggled through the depression of the 1930's and the recent recessions. Changing climate and government policies continue to pose new challenges. Urban sprawl is also a factor the farm must deal with, as it is situated near the ever-growing capital city of Kansas. "I am now surrounded by houses that weren't there 20 years ago," shares Todd. Technological advancements have helped keep the farm relevant in changing times. Technology has helped the family farm, "generate an increased rate of production, volume of planting, harvest, (improve) cattle handling, and has allowed one farmer to farm more acres."

When asked to share about the progression of farm ownership, Todd makes a point to clarify that maintaining a century farm involves intentional, purposeful sale of the land from generation to generation. "One of the reasons why is because each generation had multiple siblings, and by purchasing the farm, it was a fair way to distribute the family assets; one child would end up with the farm (the one who wanted to continue farming) and the other siblings would be compensated with the monetary equivalent." Today Todd acknowledges that the drastic increase in land values has made this a tremendous challenge in recent years. "It is easy to see where such a purchase could make a person land rich and cash poor," he concludes.

With the recent loss of his mother and father, Paul Todd now faces the challenge of managing the family farm and all of its responsibilities. Better than anyone, Todd understands the variety of hats one must wear when managing a production operation - book keeper, farmer, strategic planner, livestock herdsman, equipment manager, and labor manager. While these challenges persist today, one cannot overlook the contribution made to society by a family farm managed and operated for over a century on the same land. We extend our sincere appreciation to Todd Farms, Inc. for their sacrifices and contribution to **Agriculture's Lasting Heritage**.