

## Written Profile

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**Farm:** Maricle Family Farms

**Location:** Albion, Nebraska

**Date of Origination:** 1871

**Industry Sector(s):** Corn, Cattle, Soybeans and Hogs



"We have a strong tradition that we are proud of," shares Hilary Maricle of Maricle Family Farms. The diversified business has been in the family since the late 1800's, and Hilary is confident the family tradition will continue. "(We have a) dream to pass this heritage on to the seventh generation!" The Maricle family has a strong foundation of experience on which to rely as they move forward in this endeavor. We are proud to share their story of **Agriculture's Lasting Heritage**.

The tradition began in 1871 when Harvey Maricle chose to leave Illinois and move west. Harvey, his wife Sarah, and their family homesteaded in Nebraska where they were able to stake a timber claim by planting trees to grow on the farm.

Today the farm is stewarded by the sixth generation of Maricles. "We have seen many changes and will continue to change and innovate in the way we produce food," Hilary explains, as she looks to the future. Innovation is necessary in an industry that is constantly subject to weather irregularities and economic volatility. "Agriculture always has challenges," Hilary continues. The Maricles have guided their farm through droughts, blizzards, grasshoppers and financial crisis over the years.

A focus on what is most important has provided direction for the family for many generations. The family believes that, "if you take care of it, it will take care of you". "Our decision making process always includes a discussion of how sustainable and long term our decisions are, in terms of impact on our land and natural resources," Hilary continues.

Over the years Farm Bureau has been key in the professional development of farmers like the Maricles. "Our organization lobbies for us in Lincoln (NE) and Washington, D.C., and provides us with data and resources to utilize on our farm," says Hilary.

With a foundation rooted in tradition, the family also embraces new technology as they look to the future. "GMO's and GPS have made us more efficient and successful," explains Hilary. She believes that autonomous equipment and more opportunities for application of genetic technology will become more prevalent in the future.

When asked what she hopes the general public understands about farmers, it comes down to a love of the land for Hilary. "The generation currently operating the farm will not harm the land because the land is what allows future generations to follow the family farming tradition!" she states. We extend our appreciation to the Maricle family, for their contribution to **Agriculture's Lasting Heritage**.



Get to know the Maricles!