

Written Profile

Farm: Krause Farms

Location: Watertown, WI

Date of Origination: 1907

Industry Sector(s): Corn, Oats, Wheat, Alfalfa, Pasture



"Farms passed on to another generation (create) security in food production," shares Merlin Krause. Merlin understands the important role Century Farms play in our economy and society as a whole. We are proud to share his family's story of **Agriculture's Lasting Heritage**.

The farm originated with the purchase of 45 acres by Merlin's grandfather and grandmother, Carl and Marie Schilday in 1907. Shortly after getting married, they started to make a living on the farm. A few years later, 15 additional acres became available. "Grandpa bought it and that gave him 60 acres to work," shares Merlin. Carl purchased an additional 20 acres soon thereafter.

Today the farm consists of 120 acres in corn, oat, wheat, alfalfa and pasture production. Merlin Krause owns the farm and manages the land. He also works 30 acres previously owned by his other grandfather, for a total of 150 acres.

Much has changed over time for Merlin and his family. Low milk prices, drought, and periods of excess rain posed recurring challenges. Adapting to change was essential, and the family bought larger machinery as it became available to decrease the amount of manpower required to run the farm. "As profits per acre decline, farmers must work more land (per person)," shares Merlin. A Farm Bureau member, Merlin is thankful for the Federation's work in government through these changes.

"The future of agriculture is always there. People need to eat!" Merlin shares with enthusiasm. "There will be lean times, but if you hang in there and watch your debt, better days come again. That's what keeps a family farm going." We are glad the Krause family farm is still going, and we are honored to share their contribution to **Agriculture's Lasting Heritage**.