Written Profile

Farm: Natzke Farm
Location: Bonduel, Wisconsin
Date of Origination: 1894
Industry Sector(s): Hay, Corn, Wheat

"It is very important to keep our young people interested in farming and ag related jobs," comment Ken and Joyce Natzke. The Natzkes operate a Century Farm in eastern Wisconsin, and we are happy to share their story of **Agriculture's Lasting Heritage**.

The foundation of their historical farm was laid in 1894 when Gotthelf and Wilhelmine Natzke moved to Bonduel from Wayside, Wisconsin. They raised 12 children while farming their land on the south end of Bonduel, Hartland Township. On August 7th, 1913, Gotthelf and Wilhelmine sold the farm to their son, Theodore, and his wife, Jenny. Theodore and Jenny's son, Ervin was later deeded the farm in 1944. Ervin and his wife, Irma, owned and managed the farm until 1957, when they sold the land to their only son, Kenneth. Kenneth and his wife, Joyce, own and manage the farm today.

The 55 acres of farmland which has withstood test of time is sewn with crops every year, including hay, corn and wheat. Like many farms in growing areas, the Natzkes have faced the pressure from increasing urbanization. When Highway 29 was built, it bisected the Natzke property, splitting the family farm physically in half. They are now on the edge of the village with no room for expansion, if they so desired. "When we are gone the land will probably be taken over by a larger farm," Ken and Joyce acknowledge. Their four sons may not be farming, but they are all involved in crucial sectors of agribusiness. Dave is the editor of Eastern Dairy Business magazine, Ted is a chemist, Mark is a farm nutritionist, and Jim manages a cheese plant.

The Natzke family farm has been sustained over the years because of the hard work and dedication of passionate agriculturists like Ken and Joyce. Their desire to foster a love of the land and a commitment to the agriculture industry in their children is a testament to the impact of **Agriculture's Lasting Heritage**.