

Written Profile

Farm: Neitzel Farms

Location: Bonduel, WI

Date of Origination: 1873/1911

Industry Sector(s): Hogs, Chickens, Dairy



Two historical farms brought together by a family who love the land comprise the story of Neitzel Farms. We appreciate the sacrifices made by generations of family members who have worked the land. We are excited to celebrate the history of these two farms as we explore their contribution to **Agriculture's Lasting Heritage**.

The Neitzel farm, located at N4419 Hilltop Road in the town of Bonduel, Wisconsin, began the journey of a century farm in 1873 when Frederick Neitzel purchased the land. Frederick, an immigrant from Pommerania, Germany, had just arrived in America when he invested in the property. He married Sophia Shultz the following year and they were blessed with ten children. Additional land was purchased from August and Pauline Hausman in 1886 as the farm, and the family, continued to expand.

In 1911, Frederick and his wife sold their land to their son, Frank. Frank and his wife Esther managed the farming operation while raising daughters Leona and Mildred. Sadly, Frank Neitzel passed away in 1948, yet his wife and daughters continued the farming operation. Years later, in 1984, the farm experienced a major setback when an arsonist set fire to the barn. The land was subsequently sold to Marvin and Joann Neitzel. Marvin and Joann's daughter Patti and her husband Greg Herrmann moved to the farm in 1987. The farm continued through the progression of family management, when in 2000, Marvin and Joann's daughter Lori and husband Darrell Mathew rented the land.

Simultaneously, just down the road at N4230 Hilltop Road, another Neitzel century farm was continually growing. Purchased by Richard Neitzel in 1911 for \$9,000, this century farm established its roots. In 1914-1915 Richard built the house that exists on the property today. The land was purchased in 1944 by Walter and Myrtle Neitzel, who added a hog barn, chicken coop and additional expansions to the existing barn. In 1969, Marvin and Joann Neitzel (whom we met earlier in this story), purchased the land and added silos as well as expansions to the current facilities. In 1985 they added a pig barn and machine shed as well. They farmed while raising a family, consisting of their four children Lori, Patti, Tami and Ronald.



N4230 Hilltop Road Farm

In 1997 Lori (Neitzel) and her husband Darrell Mathew, whom rented the first property we explored, purchased the farm. They added freestall barns and a milking parlor as well. They continue to farm while raising their children Brett, Nicole and Ryan.

The stories of Century Farms are fascinating and often, as we experienced with Neitzel Farms, intertwined. We extend our appreciation as we celebrate the contribution made by several generations of Neitzels to **Agriculture's Lasting Heritage**.