

## Written Profile

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**Farm:** Pine Grove Dairy Farm  
**Location:** Boyceville, Wisconsin  
**Date of Origination:** 1912  
**Industry Sector(s):** Dairy, Corn, Soybeans



"Farmers care about their land, livestock and crops," shares Darryl Kovacik of Pine Grove Dairy Farm. Darryl lends tremendous perspective and historical knowledge as he shares his family's tale of **Agriculture's Lasting Heritage**.

"My Grandfather immigrated from Slovakia in 1912," Darryl begins. His grandfather settled in the Boyceville area where there was a sizeable Slovak settlement. He began farming by purchasing 40 acres, and he soon added three more 40 acre sections, bringing the total farm to 160 acres. In 1914 he married Minnie Krampert, and they later had children Charles and Irma. Charles is Darryl's father. Life on the farm was growing, but it was not easy. "In 1920 my grandpa was killed by a falling tree as he was making saw logs to build our 86' x 36' barn," shares Darryl. The barn was ultimately finished in 1922 and, after serving as a dairy barn for 80 years, it still stands today in good condition. Darryl's father, Charles, married Helen Bartos in 1944 and they raised Darryl and his brother Dale. Charles worked the farm until he retired in the 1980's. Darryl and his wife Nola took over the farm in June of 1978 and continue to live on the farm. They have three children, John, Jennifer and Julie.

Today the farm still includes the original 160 acres. The cropland is rented out and planted with a rotation of corn and soybeans. They also summer pasture yearling heifers for a neighbor. Most of Darryl's time is now spent cutting firewood and maintaining pasture fences. As he diligently works each day to care for the land, Darryl reflects on the changes the farm has witnessed. "Like our Century Farms, we have come through many wars, the Great Depression and just the regular ups and downs of farm prices," he comments. While actively farming, Darryl recalls the great change that came from tractors with greater horsepower, more plow bottoms, bigger discs and chisel plowing, which, "now seem small and insignificant by today's standards," he adds. Through the changing times, Darryl and his family have benefited from relationships built through involvement in their local Farm Bureau. "[I] was able to make contacts with other members that I wouldn't have otherwise met. It was encouraging to talk to them," he shares.

Looking to the future, Darryl lends his perspective: "With the ability to adapt and change, today's youth must persevere, just as our older generations have done. It is a lot more mental (technology) today than it was in days gone by, but those who are determined will be able to continue our great agricultural traditions that will help America feed the world." We are thankful for the investments made by Darryl and his family. They have truly made an impact on **Agriculture's Lasting Heritage**.