

## Written Profile



**Farm:** Peter Alig Homestead

**Location:** Okarche, OK

**Date of Origination:** 1893

**Industry Sector(s):** Wheat, Cattle, and Sheep



"We are strong stewards of the land," says Richard Alig, of the Peter Alig Homestead, which is one reason this farming operation has contributed to **Agriculture's Lasting Heritage** as a Century Farm.

"If you abuse the land, you don't get results," Alig continues, "You have to respect the land and work with it." This mindset and underlying respect for the environment and its bounty has propelled the Peter Alig Homestead through years of change. The family originally farmed in Germany, and as they immigrated to the United States, they carried with them a love of the land and desire to produce for others. After farming in Illinois and Missouri, Richard Alig's great grandfather bought the land rights for the property in Okarche, Oklahoma in 1893. The farm has remained in operation on the same land ever since.

The Peter Alig Homestead is made up of 2,500 acres of wheat, approximately 300 ewes, and 1,500 head of stock cattle. "It's not easy," says Alig. "There's good times and there's bad." But Alig is quick to point out that perseverance has helped their family succeed through challenging times. Meeting changing regulations and balancing the increasing cost of inputs provide continual opportunity for growth as a sustainable producer. With a progressive mindset, the Alig's transitioned 100% of their land to no-till production. They leverage new technology, such as computers and GPS (global positioning systems) to manage the operation and reduce the need for spraying. "You have to be able to change. If you're doing what your Grandpa was doing, (it won't work)."

Involvement in the local Farm Bureau has enabled the Aligs to become involved in agricultural legislation. Working on the grassroots level, Richard Alig became involved with Farm Bureau in the 1980's, when the family operation included hog production and increasing regulations were prevalent. He has also served as the county Farm Bureau President. Speaking of his involvement in Farm Bureau and the ability to influence supporting legislation, Alig proudly shares, "It takes time, but it works."

The Peter Alig Homestead is a rich example of how Century Farms have contributed to the lasting heritage of our nation. Spend five minutes in conversation with the Aligs and you will find an inborn love of the land driving their daily choices. "There is nothing better than to wake up in the morning," says Richard Alig, "and see cattle and sheep grazing. You get to see Mother Nature at work."

We applaud the investment of the Peter Alig Homestead and appreciate their contribution to **Agriculture's Lasting Heritage**.