

Written Profile

Farm: Oakdale Farm

Location: Lincoln, Wisconsin

Date of Origination: 1862

Industry Sector(s): Dairy Cattle, Hogs, Chickens, Corn, Hay, Soybeans



"I am the second youngest son of eight boys born to Henry, Sr. and Frances Schultz in the Town of Lincoln, Wisconsin. Today, 88 years later, I sleep in the same bedroom where I was born," shares Henry J. Schultz in a personal letter drafted in 2012. The letter paints the picture of generations of family members who have loved the land and committed their lives to producing basic necessities for others. It is with humble admiration that we share their story as we celebrate the contribution made by Oakdale Farm to **Agriculture's Lasting Heritage**.

The story of the family farm begins in 1808, when Christian Fredrick was born. Raised in the village Briesenhorst in the former Prussian Province of Brandenburg, Fredrick immigrated to the United States and purchased Oakdale Farm in 1862. He brought with him his wife, Anna, and two children, Johann Fredrick and Mathilda. Son Johann (who later changed the spelling of his name to John) purchased the farm in 1871. William and Henry A., John's sons, subsequently purchased the farm and worked the land until their death.

The death of Henry A. left his wife, Francis, to run the farm with the help of her eight sons. Son Henry J. had full responsibility for planting crops for the first time in 1942, when he graduated from high school. He had planned to work on a neighbor's farm, but when his brother Russ was drafted into the army, Henry J. returned home to manage the farm for his mother. "When I was 26 I had my eye on my neighbor's daughter, Gloria Balk," shares Henry J. They were soon married and rented the farm for \$50 a month. In 1955, they purchased the neighboring farm, as well as the home farm from Henry's mother. "62 years later and we've had a good married life," Henry fondly remarks. They have raised three children, Chuck, Patty and Ann, who have all built homes on the farm.

But life on the farm wasn't always easy, as Henry J. recalls first hand. "A few years ago I was visiting with my cousin, Lloyd Plank," he begins. Lloyd recalled visiting his grandfather, Henry J.'s father, on the farm. "They went for a walk up an old field road and all at once his grandfather started to cry," he continued. "He saw all those dead pigs. I remember going through the Great Depression, and I told him (Lloyd) that if you signed up for that program you could only have so many pigs on your farm. If you had more pigs than your quota, you had to kill them." Henry J.'s father had been forced to make a decision to keep the family farm during arguably the greatest challenge in our history's nation. He made a decision to feed his family and others, but his love for his animals and the land he worked overflowed through his simple actions.

"This year we will be harvesting our 70th crop and I've gotten the best of both worlds," explains Henry J. "I've been able to live next to the land where my heart belongs. If I had a chance to do over, I would do the same thing. It's a wonderful life!" We are honored to celebrate Oakdale Farm, and their significant contribution to **Agriculture's Lasting Heritage**.



Agriculture's Lasting Heritage is a partnership between the American Farm Bureau Foundation for Agriculture and Capreno®, the longest-lasting herbicide of its kind. This program provides further recognition of the proud tradition of American agriculture, and the farm families that have worked the land and kept farms in their families for more than 100 years.