

Written Profile

Farm: Wayside Dairy LLC
Location: Wayside, Wisconsin
Date of Origination: 1863
Industry Sector(s): Dairy



"Our ancestors came with a strong work ethic and high moral values. Each generation has carried that forward in our church, community and agriculture," shares Paul Natzke of Wayside Dairy. We are privileged to share how Wayside Dairy has contributed to **Agriculture's Lasting Heritage**.

The founding ancestors of Wayside Dairy emigrated from Germany. Farming was their way of life, and they brought this passion for the land to America. More than 150 years have passed since the original family members settled in Wisconsin. Striving to maintain a balance of production and environmental stewardship, Wayside Dairy has turned to advanced technology to meet the challenge. "We use modern technology practices that fit our operation," Natzke explains. The family plans to continue implementing precision farming techniques, including GPS-guided equipment and RFID readers for electronic cattle monitoring. They also turn to agribusiness consultants to stay on the "cutting edge" of their farm business. "With the knowledge and technology we have, we can achieve greater yields while using conservation practices to protect our water," Natzke adds.

A farm that has stayed in operation for more than a century is one that has undoubtedly overcome significant obstacles. A major barn fire in 2001 was one such event for Wayside Dairy. "Our future was at stake," says Natzke. "We decided to rebuild and continue the farm."

According to Natzke, Farm Bureau has served as a "watch dog on matters concerning the wellbeing of agriculture on local, state and national levels." Membership in Farm Bureau allows participation in all phases.

"A dairy farm offers a lot of opportunity for families to learn, teach, plan and work together," Natzke concludes. We are thankful for the investment made by generations of family members who have led Wayside Dairy, and we extend our appreciation for their contribution to **Agriculture's Lasting Heritage**.