Written Profile

Farm: Wommack Family Farm
Location: Stafford, MO
Date of Origination: 1846
Industry Sector(s): Milk cows and beef cattle

"The land is like a family member. You take care of it and it takes care of you." These are not just words spoken by Carmen Wommack, but words that have truly been lived out on the Wommack Family Farm. He shares with **Agriculture's Lasting Heritage** the ups and downs that the land and his family have experienced over the last 168 years.

Carmen's great-great grandfather William Wommack took ownership of the Wommack farm in 1846. The land was then passed down through three generations of Wommack men to Carmen's father, Fredrick Wommack. After his father's death, Carmen's mother Wanda was left with the farm and two small children, Carmen (5) and Darlene (8). The family was determined to hang on to the acreage. "It wasn't easy for her, but she was a strong woman and she persevered", he says. Carmen was busy helping his mother in the fields with the cows when he was 7 years of age. While Wanda and Carmen were taking care of the animals, Darlene was cooking for the family at a young age. Having made it through the trying years that followed his father's death and being proud of their heritage, Carmen is still working the land with the help of his wife, his son, and his priceless friends.

"Without the Farm Bureau and what it does for the farmer today, I don't know how we would still be able to survive", Carmen says. "Between droughts and insects and whatever else Mother Nature throws at us, the Farm Bureau has always been there for us."

"They [the general public] need to know how hard it is on the people who own and work these farms. Nothing is handed to them. They work very hard to keep their farms alive. It is a never-ending love of the land that keeps them going and the satisfaction of the work they have done." **Agriculture's Lasting Heritage** continues to share stories like the Wommack's with the rest of America as we work to recognize these hard working agriculturalists.