



Everything but the Locusts

Besides planting in sub 40 degree temps, having a Memorial Day frost, experiencing hail on a few fields, surviving a hot summer that felt like a blow torch at times, limping through a multiple month drought, and then dealing with punishing winds once the rains finally came, it's been a pretty typical growing season in Iowa. Even after all that, the crops look pretty good. It won't be a record yield but it could have been much worse.

"We can complain because rose bushes have thorns, or rejoice because thorn bushes have roses."

Abraham Lincoln



Farm Focus

What is a legacy? One definition states that a legacy is something passed on from family, such as character, beliefs and dreams. As a farmer, it includes being good stewards of the land, valuing your partners (family, employees, landlords, product reps, etc.), performing your work to the best of your abilities, and striving to make a positive impact in the world.

When my grandparents moved to this land over four decades ago, I wonder if they imagined how their family would grow and work together in future generations. One of the great pleasures and privileges of my job is getting to work with my dad, uncles and cousins on the land which provides for our families.

I often notice how my children observe everything around them. The examples we set for them today will be our legacy. It will transcend our lifetimes and shape the world ahead. My mission is to carry the torch forward in building a successful family farm that sustains our families practically and meaningfully into the future, and to pass onto my children a love for the land, family and God.

The bridge (read more on back page) is more than a connection of one creek bank to another. To me, it signifies the connection of generations in our family; learning from the past, living in the present and building for the future.

By Mark Rogers



Building a Bridge

One of Mark's visions of connecting the two main farms of our operation came to fruition. With help from Mark's father-in-law, Bob Harmon, and a very large crane, the bridge project that began a year ago was completed this August. It

was a team effort as the three sections (weighing 5.5 ton each) were hauled in one at a time. The bridge was fastened down on footings made of 22 yards of concrete. It should not move when the flood waters come, which is a matter of

when, not if. The decking was made of 2 layers of treated 2x12s as bridge planking was difficult to find. The bridge provides an easy pass from the house to the office/bin site. The kids are excited to drive ATVs over to the #2 farm to help Dad.



Family Move

Exciting news! We sold our house in Hampton, and we're moving back to the country. This fall we will be moving to the Rogers' family farm where Mark grew up. Mark's parents are building a new house just a short distance away.

Family Tradition

Vegetable Soup (Kid Approved!)

- 2 Tb. olive oil
- 1 yellow onion, diced
- 3 carrots, peeled & diced
- 2 stalks celery, diced
- 3 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 c. spinach, finely chopped
- 1 sweet potato, peeled & diced
- 1 ½ c. chicken broth
- 1 (14oz) can diced tomatoes
- 2 t. Italian seasoning
- Salt & pepper
- 1 zucchini, chopped

Heat oil in big soup pan. Saute onion, carrots, celery, garlic & spinach 5 min. Add potatoes and cook 6-8 min. Add rest of ingredients except zucchini. Cover and simmer 30 min. Add zucchini. Cook 15 min.

