



This Old House

This old house lived a good story. Built around the turn of the 20th century it was the centerpiece of a farm that would be known someday as Tyden Farm No. 2. This old house was home to Mark's Grandma for over 30 years and the main dining hall during field work. Then lastly this old house served as the office for Rogers Family Farms until a fire took it down this past August. This old house will stay alive in our memories.

The electric light
did not come from
the continuous
improvement of
candles.

Oren Harari



Farm Focus

The ground is shifting in the agricultural space. High interest rates coupled with lower commodity prices and high input costs are taking a toll on real estate values, machinery prices and other big ticket items. As margins get tighter, the squeeze is real, and it eventually feeds on itself. The steady drop in grain prices has led to a lack of farmers selling not only the crop being grown this year but the '23 crop still in the bin. With the producer this undersold, any future rallies will be muted by these cash sales.

The ripple effects of this are seen in manufacturing layoffs, farm related credit tightening, and ultimately consolidation in farming.

I lived this first hand back in my hog farming days where the options were expand or get out. As scary as all this may sound, it really is the natural evolution of business, and economics are one one peice of the consolidation story, albeit a very important one. The number of U.S. farms decreased by 7% between 2017 and 2022. {yikes}

However, while the short term may be bumpy, let me leave you with a bit of optimism. Farming is a cyclical business and opportunities are present both on the way up and down. The world needs what we grow and with urban sprawl it must be grown on less land. The markets will come back and happy times will be here once again.

- Mark



School Day on the Farm

To start the new school year, we hosted around 80 kids and 25 parents for ‘Farm Day 2024’. The event included six different stations: harvesting, spraying, grain handling, grain hauling, hog production, and farming facts/trivia. Our entire crew participated in sharing their

knowledge of running a modern-day farm. Most of the kids live in town and have little connection to anything rural. The kids were most intrigued by the size of the machinery. The parents were surprised to learn how agriculture has changed since their grandparents farmed, and especially

how integrated technology has become. Highlights included a hayrack ride, honking the semi horn, climbing in the combine and peeking in on the hogs. As an added bonus the kids were able to win prizes during the farm trivia station. It was a great day had by all!



Larry

We added a tractor to our fleet. “Larry”, named after its original owner (Kimberly’s grandpa), is a 1962 John Deere 3020. After sitting idle for around 30+ years, all it took was new tires, seat and everything that the fuel touches, to get Larry running as good as new. His first big debut was to pull the hayrack for Farm Day ‘24.

Family Tradition

Date “Snickers”
[Something unusual!]

- 2 c. Pitted dates
- ¼ c. Peanut butter
- ½ tsp. Flakey sea salt
- ¼ c. Chocolate chips
- Chopped peanuts

Make an opening in each date from one end to the other. Use a small spoon to fill each date with about 1 tsp. peanut butter. Gently close each date. Melt chocolate and drizzle over top and then sprinkle with salt and chopped peanuts. Refrigerate for at least 15 minutes.

