

July 6, 2025

A Love Story for the Generations to Come

Grandpa and Grandma were the 3rd generation to purchase the farm. Who knew where their love story would go and how the following generations would continue to grow here on the farm.

They say there is one person meant for us to be connected to in life. Someone who will help us succeed and push us to be who we are called to be. Sometimes we find them, and sometimes we don't, but in my grandparents' case they found each other. On July 2nd, it would have been 65 years of marriage for them, however it has been 5 years since my grandpa passed. Their story did not start out here on the farm. When they got married they lived in a house closer to town. My grandpa would help his dad at his farm on boot jack. It was just something that they did. They didn't really know where it would go but my grandpa grew up on a farm and he knew he would want to farm. My grandma, well she grew up in town, and was only on the farm when visiting family. However, the opportunity to purchase this place from her relatives came up and so they took it.



Grandma tells me their mortgage doubled, bills, etc all were more than they were in the house they used to live in so they had to make this farm work for them in order to keep it going. It was a struggle but the dairy was thriving, till the 80's. Then it became hard but farming is something you just don't quit easily. The farm changed paths and sheep and produce became the things that kept the farm moving forward. I remember years of watching people come from other countries to sheer sheep, the hard times of the produce, the farmers markets, and more. It was just what we always did. Many years were tough and it was a struggle, but the farm was kept together. In 2000, my grandparents worked to pass the farm on to the next generation.

Together, they guided my parents through their years on the farm and my parents made changes and started to change the course of the farm to move away from wool sheep to hair sheep. It was a direction that took the farm to where it is now. The goal was to always sell meat by the cut here on the farm and we have made that happen. We continue to do many of the things that my grandparents, but we have adjusted and moved with the markets and the times. We find other ways to reach our consumers and while we might not always have the right ideas or methods to move about, we still know that it was my grandparents who brought us here to this farm and this location. Without their struggles all those years ago, we would not be here on this farm doing the things that we are doing. Each generation has a story and I hope one day when my grandkids are farming right here on the farm too, they can look back not only to my parents but beyond and see how this place has advanced, changed, and grown with each and everyone of us.

Hay, Hay, Hay!

Well July has started and the 4th has come and gone. This past weekend was, well hot! However, we opted to take the holiday weekend to make Hay. Lots of Hay. The weather has not been the best in June and so we are behind. Certain grasses will start heading out and dying and the weeds grow up faster. We are now racing the clock, so on the last stretch of nice weather we cleared the fields on the first half of the farm. We needed to clear the second half. So that's just what we did! All the fields were cut on specific days so that we finished up today before the forecasted rain tomorrow. Now here's hoping we don't get a lot of rain and we can cut some borrowed ground this week.



Hay takes a lot of planning, energy, and time away from other things because it is truly all hands on deck, and truly we could use a few more borrowed hands. We are finding that the yields in which we were worried about are coming out more than we anticipated as this warm weather has helped. So now we are looking to sell some hay or fill the barn with more squares and the man power just is not there to do all that needs to be done some nights. We are grateful to have the kids and friends that come around to help and truly if you ever had a desire to help a farmer with hay, call us up! We are in need of hands to help move hay. The pay is not great, but we promise you won't leave hungry!



Farmers Market Season Kicks off July 8th!

It's hard to believe we are already in July and now looking at the next several weeks to be attending farmer's market. We are will only be attending the Ridgway Farmer's Market on Tuesday afternoons. If you haven't checked out the details of the market, we highly encourage you do that. Elk County Council of the Arts does a great job running the market and the live music line up and food trucks always provides for a great place to get some entertainment, local farm fresh food, and of course dinner for the evening. The market runs from July through end of Sept and we are hoping to make it weekly. Market opens for items for sale at 3:30pm and don't forget you can place an order online for pick up at the market if needed. Our only request is that you be there by 4pm for pick ups, especially if ordering milk. We can't wait to see you at the farm market this season!

Farm Updates

It feels like it has been a long time since I put together a farm update but here goes nothing. Moose (the bottle calf) is now being weaned and is down to one bottle a day and munching on hay and grain! He is growing like a weed and we hope to put him out with the rest of the cows in the coming weeks so he too can be playing with the other three boys. Speaking of the other calves, the boys have named them all. We have Bulls Eye, Remington, and Winchester. Each of them are growing well and seem to be thriving. We have spent lots of time doing hay, but you knew that already :). We also have been working hard at growing plants. The tomatoes look pretty good, the peppers seem to be struggling a little, and well the weeds are starting to be a problem. The deer have learned how to counteract our fence so that's our next hurdle. We also had a big update to the house over the last two weeks (pictures soon). Overall the farm is a busy place with each day bringing its own challenges and fun.

Farm Strong Vs. Gym Strong Really is A Thing



The other day, I was scrolling social media and this other farmer's page came up. I was intrigued with what she was talking about and felt it to be fairly accurate. She was referring to how women on the farm are different from women in a gym and I never felt more seen.

There is so much truth behind how we are on the farm than how we are in the gym. For

instance you can ask me to bench press 50 pounds and I will probably drop it on my chest, but carry a 50 pound bag of feed, I got it. You could ask me to run for 6 miles and I would probably have to stop after one mile but don't bet I can't go 14 hours straight working hard on the farm. Things are just so much different when it comes to being strong on the farm vs strong in the gym. I just don't have that gym strong look nor ability.

Women in ag is a growing force as 34% of farms are now woman owned/operated. One thing I like is finding that others are talking about the challenges they face as a woman in ag and show how we can do one thing but not another. So no you won't find me at the gym bench pressing but you can catch me throwing hay bales, carrying sacks of feed and overall working hard on the farm so that my family can feed your family.



Sometimes Even Animals Have to do Something They Don't Like

The weather this summer has been, well you know, a little off. Some days it is cold, other days it is super hot. Well lately it has been a little hot and for some reason, the donkey's would not shed out their thick hair. Donkeys are a desert built animal so they hang on to that thick coat longer than they should but it was getting too hot for them. So, Emily felt she should give them a haircut (clip). Well Snickers was a wonderful Donkey, and she loved the pampering. This surprised us all because Donkey's don't like new things, noises of a certain kind, and clipping them is usually a long training process. Not with her, she was loving it. Then it came time for the little guy. He was not a fan. He tried getting away from clippers, bucking, and just not sure about it. However, with some persistence, gentleness, quick hands, and well a little bit of calming medicine, he caved and accepted his haircut. When he was done, he actually enjoyed it and is now thankful Emily took the time to clip that long hair off of him. Both Donkeys are much happier, cooler, and creating enough dust with rolling in the mud they may turn brown soon!





Farmer for A Day Camp

Our farmer for a day camp is almost here and we still have some openings! If you have a kiddo that enjoys animals, being outdoors, or aspires to be a farmer, then this camp is for them! The camp will have kids interact (hands on) with animals, growing plants, different farm activities, and more. The kids will get to learn all about farming and the many different aspects. The good, the bad, and the ugly as they dive into it with real farmers. We have limited spacing for "Farmer for a day camp," so register now before it is too late!

Summer Horse Camp

Each summer, we love to bring kids to know about horses. This summer is no different and we will once again be hosting our Summer Horse Camp. Camp this year will be in Aug. and we are looking forward to getting all those horse loving kids involved. You can register now by using the QR code or contacting Amanda at 814-335-0804. We hope to see your kiddos here enjoying some great fun with horses and more throughout the week!

