

Sherri Hyde

I was born on June 26, 1964, in Chicago, Illinois, to Samuel and Judy Ferguson. The first six months of my life we lived in Chicago until my parents decided to move to Niangua, Missouri, where they were raised. My grandparents on my mother's side lived there also. My dad worked for Sho-Me Power Electric Cooperative when I was still a small child. In the early 70s he worked for Blue Cross and Blue Shield as an insurance salesman. I went to school in Niangua until my second grade year when, in 1972, my parents, in 1972, bought a farm and moved to the country near Seymour, Missouri. It was a 140 acre farm they bought for \$16,000. It included an old house and a few out buildings. First we had beef cattle and then we bought around forty head of Holsteins and had a grade C dairy barn.

My mother worked for Citizens State Bank in Marshfield as a teller until she quit for the birth of my sister in March of 1973. Samantha is nine years younger than I am. I was in the third grade at this time. I had to share my corner of the living room with her since we only had one bedroom and my parents got it. The old house we lived in was so cold we, on cold mornings, could see our breaths inside the house. When my parents bought this house, it had problems like most old houses. It had holes in the mortar in the chimney, but my dad never told my mom until after we built the new house. She would have had a fit.

It was around the eighth grade when my parents decided to build a new house because, one Saturday morning, we were all sitting around watching Bugs Bunny and Road Runner cartoons. My mom went to get a Popsicle for my sister and walked up on a black snake in the kitchen. She screamed and jumped up and down. My dad calmly walked in the kitchen and asked what was going on. My mom yelled "Snake!!" That was the deciding factor on building a new house. The snake had crawled under the screen door, which was one of those wooden screen doors like houses used to have.

In 1978 my dad got a job with Harry Cooper Supply in Springfield, Missouri. We weren't making a lot from the farm, and he wanted to bring in more money. At the same time, Dad decided to build a new dairy barn to be able to establish a grade A Dairy. The fifteen years we spent running a dairy farm is where my farming background came from and my interest in tractors also. We had 140 acres and 40-45 head of Holsteins and a few Guernsey's.

In the early 80's Dad answered an ad for a Vermeer dealership in Marshfield. He was successful in obtaining the dealership where we sold Vermeer balers, Duetz tractors, M&W balers, and rotary cutters. In the summers I had to milk twice a day while dad helped farmers with setting up their balers and whatever else they might have bought from us. I worked at least thirteen to fifteen hours a day, and for a teenager, it meant not running around with friends like other teenagers in my school. I worked on the farm...period.

I graduated from High school in May of 82, and, in March of that year, I met Matt Hyde. We went out with some friends to eat pizza and to go bowling on our first date. It was actually a blind date since I had not seen Matt in two years. He was looking for someone to date, and Debra Owen, a friend, called and asked if I wanted to go out with her and her boyfriend Sigel and with Matt as my date. I asked my parents and they said yes. On the second date, Matt came to pick me up, and we went out at eight o'clock on a Saturday night. We attended a movie and had a meal so; it was one in the morning when we got back to my home. I got home and was worried about what dad would say about us being so late. When I went in the house nobody was up; so I went to bed. The next morning I got up and everybody else was in the kitchen at the breakfast table. Dad asked how my date was and then asked what time I got home. I told him expecting to be in trouble, but he didn't appear upset. I finally asked

why he was not angry that I got in so late. Dad said he already knew Matt and his family and said he wasn't concerned. Then he laughed because I had thought I was in trouble.

Matt and I dated for five years and five months before we got married on August 21st 1987 at High Prairie Baptist Church in Marshfield, Missouri. Matt was the only guy I dated, and we have been together for twenty-four years.

After we got married, we lived in Marshfield, and Matt worked for the Webster County Soil Conservation Service. I worked for Litton Industries in Springfield. In September of 1988, Matt went to work for Mid-America Dairymen out of Springfield, and we moved to Berryville, Arkansas to live. He had all of Boone, Jasper, Carroll, and Madison counties as his territory.

One day Matt received a call from Jim Hancock who was the field man for Mid-America Dairymen in Siloam Springs, Arkansas. He wanted to know if Matt wanted to move to Siloam. We came over and had supper at Jim and Vicki's house and looked at the town. I told Matt I would think about it, and finally I told him I would move on the condition that we would buy a house and not move again since we already had moved five times in two years.

He worked for Mid-America for nine and a half years, but in March of 1998 he was let go since Mid-Am merged with three other dairy co-ops and formed DFA Dairy Farmers of America. In April of 98 he started with Mc Kee Foods (which makes Little Debbie snacks) and, as of 2012, has been with the company for fourteen years.

In 1996 Marie Davis approached me about being the club photographer for Tired Iron, and that is how I became a part of the club. Tired Iron of the Ozarks was having its shows at the property called Rose of Sharon east of Gentry, Arkansas, when I joined the club. I have taken numerous photos of rare tractors in my sixteen years with the club. A highlight of my photography experience was when I took photos of Helen Case Brigham, the great-granddaughter of J I Case, who was the founder of the Case Tractor Company. Mrs. Brigham attended our show when we hosted the EDGETA national meeting in 1997. Our featured tractor was Case that year. I enjoy capturing the shows on film for years, and now on digital files. I like being able to keep history alive.



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Matt Hyde