

My Goals for 2018

New Year. New goals. Well, maybe . . .

I have the best intentions. Now to make them a reality.

Farm

At this point, there are no intentions to make any major changes to our farm. But there is always, always room to improve, such as marketing. I would love to have a better handle on our grain marketing. I swear . . . we are the worst marketers. Or so it seems. We sell over half of our corn to Valero (ethanol plant) when they have availability and sell all of our soybeans to CHS. Both of these plants are within five miles of our farm. We are so fortunate to live in such close proximity to our markets. We have no plans to grow different crops. The biggest reason is our farm equipment is set up for corn and soybeans and to grow a different crop, there also needs to be a market. We are spoiled with having our markets so close.

Estate planning. We need to update it. The biggest struggle we have is trying to figure out what we want to happen with our estate. Not much more to say other than--Do It. Period.

Family

Wedding. This year our family will experience something we haven't experienced in the past 10 years. Our youngest daughter is getting married! So I will sit back (or as much as I can) and enjoy the ride. We are so excited about adding one. more. son-in-law!

Death. This past year, my dad passed away in August. My mom passed a little over a year before that. Our family is experiencing all the firsts. It's given me time to really reflect on life, on family and what is really important. It changes you forever . . .

Personally

Health. Don't we all have personal goals? I am not going to set concrete, specific goals because sometimes, life just gets in the way. I just want to be and do better this year. Health is always in the mix, isn't it? Realizing that I am not getting any younger and my age keeps going in one direction, I know I need to be more serious about health. Both my parents were diabetic and seeing what they went through with some of their health challenges makes me want to do better. Not perfect, but better. It means more exercise, less sugar to keep the blood glucose levels in check. The cards are stacked against me but that doesn't mean I have to sit idly by.

Declutter. I really do like to declutter. Love the feeling of getting rid of "stuff" that I just don't need.

Just need to carve out some of my day. Maybe in 15-minute increments? With that schedule, I may be done by 2026.

Experiences. And more experiences. I gave all the grandkids coupon books this year for Christmas. Each coupon can be redeemed for an experience with grandma and/or grandpa. Christmas is always a struggle for me because I don't believe we need more things. And I want more experiences too. They don't have to be grandiose. It really is the simple things in life. Anyone thinking the same way? I would love to hear your thoughts!

God. And most important, rely more on my faith and God even when it doesn't make sense. God is in control. Always need to reminded of that.

Blog/Social Media

First and foremost, all of my social media platforms will continue to place "connecting consumers to those who grow or raise their food" at the center of what I do. That will never change. I will be adding a few new things this year. I plan on peppering in some other types of blog posts. First, I will be adding in a few recipe blog posts. I am NOT a foodie and will never portray myself as such. But what I plan on sharing are some personal family favorites. I have my mom's recipe box. My mom was a great cook and this is one way I can honor her. These recipes are simple, not fancy--recipes you would find in a church cookbook. Secondly, you will see some travel-related posts--probably travel sites in Minnesota. We really do have a beautiful state, even though the winter cold tries to freeze your face off.

Other changes you may see are more new blog posts and less older blog posts. I will admit, I was a bit lazy this past year. My goal is to have maybe one recycled/upcycled blog post a week. I am planning on more videos and pictures and a little deeper dive into my life on and off the farm.

I am looking forward to the new year and it's been a good exercise to write down my goals--again to be and do better.

