

National AgDay - Teaching Our Grandchildren



Mr. E is learning all about pigs!

Grandchildren . . .

One of God's greatest gifts.

As grandparents, we are part parent, part caretaker, and part friend. That puts us in a very special place in our grandchildren's lives. Personally, as farming grandparents, we feel a responsibility and a duty to teach them about farming and where their food comes from. We are **PROUD and honored** to can share our farming experiences, especially on this National AgDay.

We are fortunate that our grandchildren live fairly close to us and can visit us often. They come with us when we go to the hog barns, in the tractors during spring planting, in the combine during corn and soybean harvest, and when we work in the garden. They love to explore, ask questions, help in the garden, play outdoors, ride their bikes, play with the dog, and help grandma and grandpa doing whatever they are doing.

It is sad to say the majority of people are not as fortunate as our grandchildren in having this direct connection to farming. And because of that lack of connection, misinformation and untruths about agriculture can easily make way into peoples' opinions and decisions in regards to food and farming practices.

We need to change that.

We can start that change by talking to not only consumers, but our families such as our children and grandchildren. We can teach them about farming by showing them where their food comes from. And the great thing about talking to our grandchildren is the **message is more intimate** because we have that special grandparent-grandchild bond. And even though it may seem we are only teaching our children and grandchildren, we may be indirectly teaching non-farming people also because we do not know how many people our children or grandchildren will come into contact during their life. We don't know who our grandchildren will be when they grow up. We are planting a seed.

Our children and grandchildren observe the hard work, the compassion, and dedication to what God has chosen us as His caretakers. They will experience the joy and exhilaration of daily farm life. And sometimes they will also experience the sorrow when an animal dies, the agony of a drought with no rain in sight, or the devastation of a hail storm has on a field of crops.

There really is no other experience like this. Even with the highs and the lows of farming, providing food for other families is both a very powerful and humbling experience.

What do I hope farming will be like when they grow up?

I hope that we are able to use our God-given intelligence to make smart decisions as to what is best for our farms, ourselves and others. I hope technology, science and our knowledge base continues to grow and improve and we are able to apply what we have learned. I also hope we continue to show our passion and compassion for farming. And most of all, I hope that **ALL** families have enough food. In addition, families should be able to choose what food they eat and farmers should be given the choice to farm in a way that suits them best.



So let's celebrate National Ag Day by talking to our children and grandchildren about one of the most honorable professions in the world. And let's show them how **PROUD** we are to be America's farmers!