

Minnesota Farm Honored For Being Owned By Same Family

AP Wire Service

By Patrick B. Anderson,
Winona Daily News

WINONA, MN (AP) – Marlene Albrecht, 72, has watched her farm change over the years. When she was a girl there was less machinery and the family bathroom was outside, in a shed next to the house.

“When I was young I had to milk cows by hand in the morning,” Albrecht said, sitting at a kitchen table in the same home she grew up in. The same home where she raised three kids with her husband, Alton.

The couple’s farm is one of 217 honored by the Minnesota State Fair this year for being Century Farms: owned and operated by the same family for at least 100 years.

Albrecht went to the county recorder to get a more detailed record of the land and then registered with the Minnesota State Fair and Min-

nesota Farm Bureau.

She and Alton will receive a plaque at the Winona County Fair in July with four other families. German immigrants Edward and George Holzworth bought 160 acres in the Garvin Heights area in 1898 and used the land to grow corn, oats and hay. The brothers worked the land for almost 40 years without electricity, eventually selling it to George’s son-in-law, Claude Thomas – Albrecht’s father – in 1939.

Like her mother, Albrecht grew up on the farm, helping her parents with chores.

She met Alton after playing electric guitar in a three-piece country band for his sister’s bridal shower.

The two hit it off. After their wedding in 1958, Albrecht’s parents asked them to take over the farm.

“We got married on a Saturday,” Alton said.

“On Sunday they said, ‘Come take it over’.”

Alton worked a series of jobs before meeting Marlene, but never as a farmer. So Marlene took her new husband into the fields and showed him the daily ins and outs.

“I didn’t know nothing about anything,” Alton, 74, said. “She showed me the whole thing.” He quickly adapted.

The two discussed moving to town, but Marlene was happy at the farm.

In the next five decades they made the land their own. Alton bought milkers for the cows and used a chainsaw to turn a first-floor bedroom into a bathroom.

They removed trees in front of the house and Alton built a series of new sheds taking care to maintain and repair the older buildings.

Eventually, the Albrechts sold off land and focused on raising dairy cows as neighbors expanded and slipped into debt.

Alton sold the cows almost three years ago, but he seems unwilling to fully abandon the trade he learned from his wife.

“Farming is a good life,” he said. “You’re out there in the open.”

Today, he helps his sons Bruce and Brian harvest three hay crops a season.

“It’s been wonderful,” Alton said. “You can come and go as you want to do.”

Marlene contents herself with cooking, art projects and taking in the rolling acreage that her family tilled, planted, plowed and harvested since the 19th Century.

During the day she often brings coffee out to the porch to sit and listen to the birds. In the evenings she rides with Alton to a cove of trees dividing their farm from the next farm over.

“I love driving out there like we do,” she said. “In the dusk to see the deer.” ☞



Now the only things lunging forward
are your opportunities.

It's a challenge to design a really successful tractor cab suspension. In an attempt to take some of the bumps out of the ride, tractor makers add springs or cushions of some kind under the cab. But if you don't do it right, the cab will rock back and forth every time you accelerate or brake. It's enough to make you seasick.

So when our engineers designed a new four-point suspension for the DT Series, they created a system that uses hydraulics to sense movement in the cab and compensate with increased motion control. The result is a cab that stays level, stable and comfortable. It's all part of a system that combines comfort, technology and strength in a tractor built for the future of family farms.

Long live the family farm.

Discover the new DT Series at your AGCO dealer or by visiting
www.LongLiveTheFamilyFarm.com.

AGCO
TRACTORS



AGCO Tractors feature
e3 technology.



IDAHO

Agri-Service, Inc.

559 12th Avenue South • Buhl, ID
(208) 543-8883 • (800) 290-3599
www.agri-service.com

Agri-Service, Inc.

Exit 208, Then 1/4 Mile N. • Burley, ID
(208) 678-2258 • (800) 251-3599
www.agri-service.com

Agri-Service, Inc.

3205 Kimberly Road E. • Twin Falls, ID 83301
(208) 734-7772 • (800) 388-3599
www.agri-service.com

Agri-Service, Inc.

1860 East 6th Street • Weiser, ID
(208) 549-1523 • (800) 930-3599
www.agri-service.com

Agri-Service, Inc.

1255 S. Yellowstone Hwy. • St. Anthony, ID 83445
(208) 624-4300 • (888) 766-3599
www.agri-service.com

Agri-Service, Inc.

(Formerly Simmons Equipment & Supply)
1280 E. 1500 N. • Terreton, ID 83450
(208) 663-4545 • (877) 805-3805
www.agri-service.com

Gilbert's Repair & Farm

4623 S. State St. • Preston, ID 83263
(208) 852-0474 • grfe@dcdi.net

OREGON

Agri-Service, Inc.

422 Thunderegg Blvd. • Nyssa, OR
(541) 372-3191 • (800) 972-3191
www.agri-service.com

UTAH

Agri-Service, Inc.

4085 N. 75 W. • Hyde Park, UT 84318
(435) 563-1020 • (866) 896-3599