



125 Years of Farming & Ranching- Holtquist/DeWald Farm

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“Never give up and when people don’t understand, keep fighting,” is the advice Tammie (Holtquist) DeWald, current owner and operator of her 125 year family farm Northeast of Milbank, gives to farmers and ranchers that are just beginning.

Tammie and her husband, James, are the fifth generation farmers on their 160 acre farm with the sixth



Tammie and James DeWald

and seventh generations looking to take over in the future. Currently, the farm/ranch produces soybeans, corn and beef. At one point, the family also milked cows.

The Holtquist family came from Sweden in 1888 where Tammie’s great, great grandfather Carl, began the legacy. Through the years the farm has done many different things. At one time, the farm was home to many horses.

As all farmers and ranchers in South Dakota know, it’s not always easy. The Holtquist family farm has had its struggles too. In 2006, Tammie’s brother, who ran the farm, passed away leaving Tammie and James with a big decision. Tammie had been away from farming for twenty three years and James had never had any farming experience. The move was one that they knew they had to make if they were going to keep the farm in the family. The DeWald’s started over.

The DeWald’s both agree that one of the biggest challenges is not being able to put their 100% into the farm. They both have demanding full time jobs outside farming and are not able to put as much time into the farm as they would like. With James being the head of the operation now, he also says the learning curve has been steep for him. James’ advice to new farmers and ranchers is “ask a lot of questions. Go to workshops, read a lot of books and get as much knowledge as possible.”

As of now, Tammie and James’ are planning to pass the farm on to their daughters. Their 17 year old daughter has big plans to attend SDSU and is currently interested in animal science. The DeWald’s also have four grandchildren that love to be out on the farm and they hope one day, to pass the family tradition on to them. “My hope is to see the farm stay in the family,” says Tammie.

Determination is a South Dakota trait. It’s what has made our state what it is today. That is just what has kept the Holtquist/DeWald farm alive. Tammie’s family has always been very determined. Tammie says

it's not easy, but it's worth it."



Holtquist Farm 1888