

Locally Grown Spring on the Farm

Near Sabetha, Kansas, the Edelman family has planted crops, raised cattle and lived with their families for over 74 years.

North of Kansas City the hills gently deepen. Farm houses and barns crop up here and there, and the once beige foliage takes on the yellow-green of spring planting. Today, Brad and Teresa Edelman and eight of their nine children live across the road from Brad's father, Cliff, who still operates the original Edelman farm. Clifford Edelman remembers farming with horses. His favorite team, Pete and Colonel, pulled wagons and plows. Before all the fences went up, horses were used to herd the cattle.

The Edelmans raise cattle for Good Natured Family Farms and grow a variety of organic crops. Brad and Teresa's oldest daughter, Emma, now married, is a farrier and travels around the rural area shoeing horses. The other children live and work on the farm with their parents and grandparents.

"In the warm months, our work load doubles, so it is important that everyone pitch in to help," Teresa said. She home schools her children, but they get the summer off so they can do chores around the farm. "The boys' favorite activity is driving the tractor to pack down the oat seeds after they are sewn."

Spring also brings new calves. To the Edelmans, that means sleepless nights walking the pastures with the older children to check on the Mamma cows. The cows will deliver any time of the day or night, and the Edelmans know they have to be there in case a problem develops. No one intervenes unless they must. Whether it is the cow that needs help or the new calf, they provide whatever assistance is needed to make sure their cows deliver safely. If the problem warrants, Brad will call the local vet for help.

"Our children learn about cattle from birth to slaughter," Teresa said. "We take a lot of pride in our cattle and are able to trace some of our cattle back generations." The Edelmans have also made that kind of commitment to their cropland—all of their land except the pasture is certified organic. They are inspected yearly by Organic Crop Improvement Association (OCIA) out of Lincoln, Nebraska. They raise corn, soybeans, oats, barley, clover and alfalfa. During the warm weather over twelve miles of fence must be checked and mended and the thistles cut down. It also means getting the equipment fixed.

Brad will spend most of his spring repairing much of the equipment used on the farm. While their dad works around the tool shed, Ben, Christina, Thomas, Katy, Peter, James and Wil help out by gathering eggs and tending to the rabbits, geese and sheep along with all of the other chores that come with growing up on a farm.

This spring, after you have your chores done around the house, treat your family to a drive through the rolling hills of northeastern Kansas and consider the new life coming forth and the farm families who nurture them. Good Natured Family Farms is thankful for the work, care and concern all of their producers provide and are proud to bring you the all natural beef from these small family farms.

Photo Caption: Left to Right: Ben, Christina, Emma, Teresa, Brad, Barbara, Clifford, Thomas, Katy, Peter, James and Wil