

SEVER FARM FAMILY

John and Bobbi-Jo Sever have been selected for the Farm Family Award for Clearwater County.

John's great grandfather (the original John Sever) purchased the homestead in 1920 for \$2,000. The farm has been passed down from father to son and now the fifth generation of Severs are active on the family farm.

In the early years the farm was involved with dairy cows, pigs and chickens and over the years the farm has grown to the impressive 1400 acres and 320 head beef operation that we see today. 250 head of these cows are Simmental/Charolais cross and the other 70 comprise of Bobbi-Jo's beloved Black Angus herd.

Clifford (John's Dad) is the third generation Sever on the farm and ran a saw mill for several years and loves working with wood. He has built nearly every building on the farm and is very proud of that.

Clifford and Gloria are still an important part of the day to day running of the farm along with John and Bobbi-Jo's children: David, Josh, Jonah, Rachael and Gabriel. Another important member who needs to be recognized is Clifford's son-in-law Harold Nicolay who is the farm mechanic and keeps all the equipment up and running.

Technological changes on the farm have been quite dramatic since those early years. Modern tractors, two combines, air seeders and well maintained equipment fill the Sever yard today. A far cry indeed from the day that Clifford's dad Roy brought the first tractor home to the farm. In a desperate attempt to make it stop he pulled on the steering wheel, yelled Woah and promptly drove straight into the creek! He then proceeded to tell Clifford to "get rid of that damn thing and stick with horses!"

The Sever family are excellent farmers and stewards of the land. They practice crop rotation, soil testing and fertilizing, proper manure management techniques, use of windbreaks and shelterbelts, and are renowned weed warriors!

Every summer the whole family gets together to put up at least 4,000 hay bales and several hundred acres of cereal crops. Many a Sever kid has been seen driving tractors and combines around the countryside and their love of the farming lifestyle is evident to anyone who knows them. Gloria keeps the busy family well fed with her enormous garden and fabulous talents in the kitchen. Every Sunday the whole family gather around Gloria's kitchen table for a big dinner. Gabby says "every Sunday here is like Christmas Day anywhere else!"

The Sever family's involvement in the Community is commendable. Prominent members of the Lutheran Church the whole family helps put on the Pageant of Christ every year.

The family has been involved in the Rocky South 4H beef club for many years. All the Sever kids have been involved in 4H and Bobbi-Jo has held several positions including 2 terms as Club Leader.

Bobbi-Jo also volunteers her time with the Senior Rebels Football Team, Pioneer Girl's Rugby Team, Wild Pony Racing and is now trying to organize the First Girl's Football Team in Rocky. Yes they make those girls tough out on the Sever Farm!

John is also involved with 4H and can often be found helping out neighbours with cattle hauling, fencing or hay making. John is a keen welder and builds all the pens, panels and wind breaks on the farm. But Bobbi-Jo says that if it involves a hammer and nails Clifford is still the master!!

The future looks bright for the Sever Family Farm. Clifford and Gloria plan to stay on the farm for as long as possible with no thoughts of retiring. John and Bobbi-Jo's children all plan to stay involved in the farming way of life. David and Josh still enjoy helping out in the Summer months and hope to continue to do so. Rachael has grand plans to go all the way to the top in the rodeo world and Gabby hopes to one day own and operate her own Dexter herd. Jonah will go to Olds College this Fall to study Ag. Management and then has big plans to start a state of the art dairy farm. As for Bobbi-Jo she dreams of increasing her Black Angus herd to 300 head and John says his big plan for the future is not to go broke!