

Leslie Farm Family



The 2017 Farm Family award goes to a multi-generational farm that is run by a family whose roots go back to 1912 and whose strong ties to agriculture, family and community are evident not only to their nominators but to the County as a whole. The Gordon Leslie Family are the 2017 winners of the award.

The Leslie Family Farm is run by three generations of Leslies. Gordon and Pauline farm alongside their son Glenn, and Gordon's parents Leonard and Jenny.

The story began in 1912 when Gordon's grandparents John and Jessie Leslie emigrated from Scotland to settle NE-28-39-5-W5. The area had already been appropriately named "Leslie-ville" so it must have felt like the right place to set down roots. Those roots have grown mightily over the years and now 105 years later that first quarter section has grown into a family farm that encompasses 12 quarter sections and a 500 head cow/calf operation. A family success story indeed.

The Leslie family show a keen interest in the environment and strive in their everyday life to include good stewardship into their management practices. They have completed their Environmental Farm Plan and are mindful of the impact their operation may have on the environment. This principle is reflected in their use of soil nutrient testing, off-site watering to protect Last Hill Creek and portable windbreaks to improve manure management and distribution.

The Leslies are always willing to share their farming knowledge and are often called upon to help fellow farmers and neighbours. They also find time in their busy lives to volunteer in their community. Gordon and Glenn are members of the Leslieville Elks and Gordon served on the Rocky Mountain House Grazing Association Board for several years. Pauline volunteers at the Leslieville Hall and when her kids were in school volunteered to help with their various sport teams. Gordon's parents Leonard and Jenny were actively involved in 4H with their children and were also regular volunteers at the Leslieville Community Hall.

A unique feature of the Leslie family farm is that there have been four generations of full time farmers on the land. Since 1912 the Leslie family has made its living strictly off the farm.

I would like to share with you a quote from the people who nominated the Leslie family.

"The agricultural industry is now a global business and to survive in this business you must adapt. This has resulted in many farm folk seeking employment off the farm and being unable to continue to farm full-time. To be able to have four generations of full time farmers on the Leslie farm speaks volumes".

The success of the Leslie Family Farm is a testament to their solid work ethic, dedication to agriculture and strong ties to family. The support and mentorship that they provide for future generations means this way of life will be ensured for generations of Leslies to come.