



SEASON'S GREETINGS 2024

To our family and friends from us at Matt Farms!

In 2024 we celebrated 90 years of family ownership of the farm. We hope to hold on for at least another 10 years to reach the 100-year milestone. The state of Iowa recognizes farmland of 40 acres or more consecutively held within the same family for 100 years as a "Century Farm" with an award ceremony at the Iowa State Fair. Amazingly, through 2023 Iowa has recognized 310 Century Farms in Carroll County alone and 21,015 throughout the state.

The 90th anniversary piqued our interest in the history of the farm. Originally 5 separate farms were conveyed by the United States in 1859 and 1860 through land grants, warrants and sales. Numerous conveyances and combinations subsequently occurred via sales, bequeathments and even foreclosure, resulting in the two adjacent north and south farms our grandfather Hugh A. Matt purchased in 1934 (north farm) and in 1937 (south farm). We invite you to take a look at the farm history summary we've added, with lots of help from our big sister Annie, to the Matt Farms website at mattfarms.com. We never knew that looking at land records could be so interesting!

Field corn (#2 yellow corn) was grown on the farm this year. It is the most commonly grown corn variety in Iowa primarily used for livestock feed and ethanol production but also used to make over 4,000 products. This year's crop is going to ethanol production and possibly could be further processed into sustainable aviation fuel.

Farming this year was a Dickens' "A Tale of Two Cities." The growing season started off dry, then bountiful rain fell in the area through mid-July and then shut off for the rest of the growing season. Fortunately, the rains were timely for field corn, which generally roots 3 to 5 feet deep but can root to 9 feet, generating an excellent yield. Unfortunately, field corn's market price has been less than excellent due to high yields and global demand. We are learning that farm income tends to be better with lower yields and higher prices than with lower prices and higher yields. Overall, we are grateful for another good year on the farm. We learned much this year, and we are looking forward to next year.

Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Dick and Bill

P.S. This poster was given by our Mom, Mary Ann, to Dick while he was in college. Maybe she could see the future!

