



Our life. Our work. Our home.

Quarterly Moos - May 2016

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

Spring has sprung. Our alfalfa fields are starting to turn green. The entire winter has been spent planning for the upcoming crop year ... fertilizing decisions, crop rotations, and field improvements. Farmers have a small window to get planting done and only one shot at getting it right.

For a farmer, it's a cycle that repeats each year with new beginnings. Spring means endless opportunity. It's exciting because we know all of the planning we do is actually out of our control. We can do everything agronomically right, but if Mother Nature doesn't cooperate, science can only get you so far. We believe in God, and we know it's ultimately out of our hands.

The different varieties of seed have been warehoused for 60 days and the trucks, tillage equipment, and tractors have been through the shop to make sure everything is in top condition. Nothing can fail when we are ready to go.

We have a great crew. Over winter, guys have been working 60-65 hours/week. During planting, they put in 80 hours/week, but they are just as excited as ever. There's a rush in the teamwork. Even if we are putting in an 80-hour week, the guys sometimes enjoy dinner and a beer with their co-workers. It's funny, but we all look forward to working really hard so we can do the same thing all over again next year.

Today, with modern farming equipment, we finish in a day what used to take our family a year to get done. There's a strong feeling of accomplishment. It feels good to walk the fields to see our conservation practices, like cover crops, have held. It is hard to mimic the excitement. It's the same feeling the gardener has when he sees his onions starting to come up.

We love seeing the wildlife return — red-winged blackbirds, robins and barn swallows — and the herds of grazing deer on the alfalfa stubble.

The appearance of the farmer tan should happen pretty quickly around here. We're already seeing our guys walk around with their t-shirts rolled up trying to avoid it.

During this busy season, please remember to be courteous to our team and other farmers on the roads. They have kids to go home to, too. To our fellow farmers, take care of yourselves during the long days.

Lee, Rod & Maureen Kinnard

Jackie and David Stewart



Jackie, David, Lee, Maureen & Rod

Celebrate June Dairy Month at Breakfast on the Farm!

Kewaunee County:

June 19, 8:00 am - 12:00 pm
Pagel's Ponderosa Dairy
N4893 County Road C, Kewaunee



Door County:

July 3, 6:00 am - 11:30 am
Door Vue Beef & Custom Cropping Farm
5418 Jarman Road, Sturgeon Bay

Nathen Nysse

Our Soil Scientist



Nathen Nysse

One of the things we strive for in our farming methods is healthy soil. To achieve healthy soil, we study the science and hire the best soil scientists to help us care for our soil and water resources. Nathen Nysse of Tilth Agronomy Group provides non-biased recommendations so we can make the best decisions possible for the land and crops.

As a partner with Tilth Agronomy Group, Nathen has been a consultant with Kinnard Farms for seven years. Nathen earned his associates degrees in both agri-science and natural resources conservation where he learned the science of soil management and crop production. As an agronomist, Nathen uses his science background to help determine the best way we can not only care for the land, but also improve it.

“Every day is a unique challenge to step up our game and make the crops and soil on Kinnard Farms even better,” says Nathen. “Kinnard Farms hires me to walk the fields giving recommendations and advice about crops to advise them on making environmentally responsible decisions.”

Healthy soil is characterized by its ability to hold and retain nutrients needed for plant growth. Nathen measures the precise amount of nutrients in our soil. He knows exactly what the plants need to grow and how much nutrient to apply, ensuring all nutrients are recycled into a growing plant, not leaving to chance what happens to them in the environment. Healthy soil is vital to water quality, because healthy soil binds the applied nutrients and holds them for slow release so the plants can grow.

Nathen is in daily communication with us from planting to harvesting seasons, and weekly during the slower seasons. Nathen has four college interns that assist in scouting every acre we farm for disease and plant health. They walk our fields weekly.

While plants and soil keep Nathen walking, his two children — Olivia and Ethan — keep him and his wife, Jill, on the run.

Like us, Nathen looks to the future for his children. One of our goals on our farm is to leave the land in better condition than we found it. Nathen helps us make the best decisions to care for our environment and our community. If you see Nathen or his team walking our fields studying the crops and soil, please make sure to wave!



Jeff Polenske, Nathen and Lee inspect a soil sample for health.

Building soil health key to protecting our water



Lee holding a worm casting, which is quite literally new soil.

Farming in a manner that protects our community’s groundwater and improves soil health is of great importance to our family. Why? Our community needs clean water. Our cows need high quality water in order to be healthy and productive. My family calls this area home and we also need clean water.

Our farming practices are designed to improve soil health and build organic matter. University research has concluded that healthy soil is a key component in protecting our water resources. Any farming practice that improves soil health also improves water health.

Manure has developed a reputation it really doesn’t deserve. Using science as your friend ensures it is a very safe, natural, organic fertilizer.

Our farming practices are designed to not only preserve organic matter content, but actually build it over time. Manure is a locally grown, organic, and renewable fertilizer. As an added benefit, manure contains organic matter. Replenishing organic matter is vital to the long term sustainability of our region’s soil.

Why is this important? Organic matter is your natural soil filter. Organic matter is a key indicator of healthy soil. It’s clear that high organic matter soil does a much better job of filtering water than low organic matter soil.

Healthy soil is a living, breathing organism which must be carefully nurtured. Healthy soil is:

- Very capable of absorbing rainwater without letting it run off, thus reducing erosion;
- Free of compaction allowing the seed to emerge and retain organic matter;
- Able to filter a nutrient, whether it be manure or a chemical-based fertilizer.

To further protect our groundwater in areas with the possibility of shallow soil, we use cutting edge technology to pinpoint our soil depth and accurately map it across our farm. This information is vital to ensure nutrients (fertilizer) are applied only to areas with adequate soil that provides filtration to groundwater.

We know exactly where the Karst topography is located. That’s a huge step. This allows us to very accurately predict if there is enough soil to safely filter the water or not. We run a Veris Machine over all our land. This machine uses electromagnetics to read soil profiles, and is something we voluntarily do as an extra step to protect our groundwater.

We all have a role in protecting our groundwater. By using the latest technology and relying on science to make decisions, we try to leave the land, air and water better for the next generation. And, it all starts with soil health.



Soil map showing depth to bedrock.

Do you have questions about our farm, or do you just want to talk with us? We're always available. Give us a call at 920-837-7644 or visit kinnardfarms.com.



Mom always had a kitchen stocked like a grocery store, but for most of us, recipes you can throw together from ingredients you have in your pantry are few and far between. This coffee cake is one of those quick and easy recipes, and tastes delicious!

Mom's Streusel Coffee Cake

Batter:

- 3 cups flour
- 1 ½ cups sugar
- 1 Tbsp + 2 tsp baking powder
- 1 ½ tsp salt
- ½ cup softened butter (1 stick)
- 1 ½ cups milk
- 2 eggs

Filling:

- ½ cup brown sugar
- 2 tsp cinnamon
- ½ cup finely chopped nuts (optional)

Streusel Topping:

- ½ cup flour
- ½ cup firm butter (1 stick)
- 1 cup sugar

Directions:

Preheat oven to 375° F.

Mix all batter ingredients together until moistened. Beat on high for 30 seconds. Spread ½ of batter in greased 13"x9" pan.

Stir filling ingredients together. Sprinkle over batter in pan.

Spread remaining batter gently over filling.

For streusel topping, mix flour and sugar together. Cut butter into mixture until crumbly. Sprinkle over batter.

Bake for 40-45 minutes. Serve warm.

