



As we look out across our fields of corn and soybeans, our thoughts turn to those men and women who farmed this land before us. Benjamin Mead, who settled here in 1840, had a dream of farming. He worked clearing the land and carving out small fields by hand. Years passed, and in the mid-depression and the war years, Jim Brook lived and farmed here. Horses pulled the farm machinery and the farm increased in size. Today our tractors, machinery, and combines glide over our acres smoothly, able to pass over many acres in one day. In fact, in one day on Crane Farms, we can do the job that once took weeks to accomplish. So many changes and constant improvements in agriculture help us improve our methods

every year. So many changes, yet the heart of this farm never changes.

Farming is what we do, it is our way of life, it is who we are. Those before us would have said the same, if asked. The love of the land and the care of the animals is the most honorable of professions, and we are grateful that we can continue in this tradition. Since the 1860's crops have been planted and harvested, children have been raised, clothes have been hung out to dry in the yard, births and deaths have come and gone, but the land and the farm remains.

So, in this sesquicentennial year, Crane Farms, located at 29320 31st St., Burlington, welcomed over 3,000 people to the

Kenosha County Dairy Breakfast. A celebration of sorts, a mix of the old with the new. They watched our cows being milked in a computerized milking parlor located in the oldest part of the barn. They saw the modern John Deere tractor stand in the shadow of a running threshing machine. And the cows, slow, quiet, and docile, watched from their pasture unaffected by the crowds or by time.

We are Wisconsin...

We are America's Dairyland...

We are Proud to be Farmers.

*Bob & Sue Crane and our 7 children  
Crane Farms 1998*