



Carlwood Farm LLC

Doug Carlson & Sandy Boardman

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I am extremely proud to be a 5th generation Carlson dairy farmer from Canaan. Growing up on our family dairy of 60 milk cows and 60 young stock, I learned early the value of a dollar and how far a farmer could stretch one. I graduated from UCONN with a BS in Animal science and a minor in Ag Education. My choices were many upon graduation as to which career I would journey into. I chose to stay on the farm, forgoing much higher paying jobs.

After nearly 5 decades of working on the farm, 2 ½ years ago, I became half owner of the business. After the papers were signed the very first thing my dad did when we got home from the lawyer was to hand me the checkbook. His words to me that day were "It is your turn now to figure out how to pay all the bills and who gets money this month and who doesn't when there isn't enough to go around."

Here we are, some 40 years after I learned my appreciation of a dollar and I am still appreciating every single dollar that is income to our farm. The Dairy Support program has been a tremendous asset to our family farm, helping "catch up" on those bills that I wasn't able to pay last month or the month before.

Furthermore, my parents participated in the Farmland Preservation program. It was through this program that the proceeds are helping make much needed improvements on our farm that have been put aside over the years because of lack of money. These improvements will help ensure my future on the farm.

I have three children, all pursuing careers in Agriculture. My oldest is an Ag teacher and FFA advisor in a CT high school, my middle daughter just finished her internship learning about processing milk, making ice cream and other dairy products and hopes to pursue this career. My son has a maple sugar business and has taken over his grandparents fruit and vegetable roadside market.

I have always said, straight out of college I turned down a \$40,000 a year job because of my commitment to our family farm. That is where my heart is. We are a stubborn group of proud people, anchored in our roots of Agriculture, handed down by those who worked just as hard in the generations before us. They have allowed us a wonderful opportunity to feed our nation, provided us with a great way of life, and made our entire Ag communities our extended families. It is my hope that my children will be able to continue as the 6th generation on our dairy farm. Funding from CT through the Dairy Support program is an intrical part in the continued success of our family dairy farm.

Sincerely,

Sandra I Boardman