



■ SUMMER GREETINGS

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

There's a rhythm to farming the land. During spring, the pace jumps when the first tractor hits the field. After the quiet indoor planning season of winter and the demands of fall harvest, spring planting brings renewed energy driven by nature. The smell in the air after a heavy rain, seeing earthworms crawl out of the soil and hearing the birds chirping at four bells – if you haven't experienced these wonders of late spring, we encourage you to take them in. It's one of the many reasons we love farming.

Our crews have been busy. We've wrapped up corn planting and we've cut first-crop alfalfa. Now, we turn our focus to new projects on the farm:

- Sedron's The Varcor® Solution is getting close to finishing construction.
- Rain 360 is a new innovative system you'll see traveling across our fields.
- Construction on a machinery storage building is underway.

We'd like to thank our farm team who works tirelessly to get the crops in the ground for our girls to have home-grown feed year-round. Our team's dedication to utilizing regenerative agriculture practices promotes soil health, and their expertise incorporating new technology improves the overall sustainability of our farm. Thanks to them, we live in an area with green and growing fields framing our summer sunsets.

Summer in Wisconsin is short and sweet. Remember to make time to slow down and take in a sunrise and sunset. There is a reason we live in the country – farmland's greenery is hard to beat.

Enjoy the sunny days!



— *Lee Kinnard, Jackie & David Stewart,
Rod & Maureen Kinnard*



Congratulations to our area graduates!

Interested in a career in agriculture?

Scan below or visit the Our People page under the About Us section on our website to learn more about our Management Team and the expertise needed to run our farm.



Marty Applies His Mechanical Skills to Innovative Equipment

As Facilities Maintenance Manager, **Marty Thiry's** position covers a wide range of responsibilities, including management of the sand recycling room, problem-solving unplanned breakdowns, overseeing scheduled maintenance and more. Previously, Marty spent 25 years working on paper machines in Green Bay. Now he has a two-minute drive to work and enjoys being able to apply his mechanical knowledge to finetune equipment on the farm.

Marty thrives on the innovation implemented at Kinnard Farms. "There is always something new, like the sand room addition. The equipment on the farm is similar to paper mills, only with a different process. Here, I can apply my mechanical skills to finetune it. There's such a wide array of equipment that I work on at Kinnard Farms that my job never gets boring. It's challenging and rewarding. At the end of the day, you feel you've made great headway."



Marty and his team make sure the recycled sand is suitable for the dairy cows that love to lie down 14 hours a day on the sand bedding. Marty maintains augers, dryers and water systems, which work to clean and dry about 19 tons of sand per hour. From the time the sand leaves the barn, is cleaned and dried, it takes about four hours.

With his mechanical mind, Marty taught himself how to restore engines and cars. His past projects include a 1972 Mustang and a 1967 Galaxy. He's currently working on restoring a 1970 Mustang. Also an accomplished woodworker, Marty built the giant stars that decorate the milking parlor at Christmas.

Marty and his wife, Sue, enjoy side by side to go check out a waterfall or natural area, camping and spending



family time in Wisconsin's Northwoods. They have three grown children – Evan is a software engineer and works at John Deere, Taylor is a biology major at St. Norbert College, and Tristan works for KES Excavating Services.

"Marty and I knew each other growing up. I followed his career at Georgia-Pacific. One day after church, I invited Marty to the farm to talk about the new sand recycling center. Marty joined the team in 2015, and we could not have perfected the sand system if it wasn't for Marty. Not only is he very smart and hardworking, he's a good people person. He is patient and an excellent teacher."
– Lee Kinnard

Research Monitoring Assesses Conservation Practices That Protect Water



Our precious soil is so much more than "dirt" – it is a living, breathing organism that responds well to proper stewardship. A healthy soil will contain a mixture of 50% soil particles, 25% airspace and 25% water. Understanding and employing practices that create this ratio of soil to water to air allows soil to cycle nutrients, purify water and promote plant growth in a sustainable fashion very similar to the natural ecosystem found on a native prairie.

Waterlogged soils are unable to capture rainfall and are prone to nutrient loss and soil erosion. A properly engineered tile line drainage system can remedy this problem by draining excess water from the soil. Research has shown that excess water drained from the soil using subsurface drainage systems is far cleaner than excess water that is allowed to run off the surface or pond on the surface of the soil. This is due to the natural filtering ability of healthy soil.

A subsurface tile line system is simply a gravity flow pipe system installed several feet beneath the surface of the soil. The pipe has small holes that allow excess water to enter and be drained away. Once the storage capacity of the soil is restored, additional precipitation events will again be held and filtered by the soil rather than running off the surface. For these reasons, we have chosen to invest heavily in subsurface drainage technology.

To further ensure that the water collected

by our subsurface tile drainage systems is nutrient free when it is released, Kinnard Farms has partnered with the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), the United States Geological Survey (USGS) and the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) to be one of the first in the nation to install a denitrifying Bioreactor and a phosphorus removal system at the outlet of a subsurface tile line drainage system.

The purpose of installing this system is to evaluate the quality of water leaving the soil through the subsurface and install simple technologies that will allow farmers to further purify water as it leaves the drainage system. The Bioreactor doesn't look like much from above, but it does a fantastic job of filtering any suspended nutrients that remain in the water. The system we have installed captures water samples fresh from the tile and compares the quality to water samples collected after it has passed through the Bioreactors. We

have been impressed with the results. Water delivered to the bio reactor through the subsurface tile line drainage system is many times cleaner and has very few nutrients when compared to surface water runoff. Water that has been through the Bioreactor is even more pure. We are excited to participate in this research and believe the groundbreaking research done on our farm will provide guidance for future Bioreactors on other farms.

The Bioreactor is one of the many tools we stack to keep our soil healthy. Others include no-till farming, planting crops and testing soil to ensure that plant nutrients are applied in the correct amount and the right time.

We would like to thank the many individuals and organizations who provided expertise on this project: Barry Bubolz, NRCS GLRI Field Coordinator, Jamie Patton, State Soil Health Coordinator, USDA-NRCS Wisconsin, Nathan Nysse, crop advisor with Tilth Agronomy Group, Whitney Prestby, NRCS affiliate and Natural Resources Educator – UW-Madison Division of Extension Natural Resources Institute, GLRI, USGS, Door-Kewaunee Demonstration Farms Network and Peninsula Pride Farms.

PRESERVE YOUR FARMLAND



Our family's goal is to keep farmland producing as farmland for future generations. The beauty of green and gold crops growing in a field preserves our soil, builds soil health and provides a home for wildlife. Communities thrive when agriculture grows.

If you are interested in preserving and protecting your land as farmland for future generations, please contact Jackie to have a discussion about selling or renting your land. Jackie can be reached at Jackie.Stewart@KinnardFarms.com or call our office at 920-837-7644.



Are you having a party?

If our field borders your home and you are hosting a graduation party, family reunion or other event, please let us know. We will work around your schedule. Simply call Paula in our office at 920-837-7644 to provide her with the date and location of your event.



A view looking west of the Phosphorus Removal System and Denitrifying Bioreactor. Components include water control structures, HDPE access manhole to monitor flow, concrete holding tank riser, diversion embankment, woodchip bioreactor, and USGS monitoring controls structure. Photo credit: Whitney Prestby, UW-Madison Division of Extension



Constructing the inlet manifold and distribution tile system on top of geotextile in the concrete holding tank. Below the geotextile is 8" of activated alumina, followed by another layer of geotextile, and the outlet manifold and distribution tile system bedded in clean stone. Photo Credit: Joe VanHulle, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)



Installation of the water control structure for the Phosphorus Removal System. 12" dual wall HDPE pipe from the field tile main enters the water control structure. Stoplog boards in the water control structure direct water to the concrete holding tank through a 6" PVC pipe. Excess water from the tile system is directed from the water control structure through a 12" PVC pipe to the Denitrifying Bioreactor water control structure. Water that filters through the concrete holding tank is directed to the same 12" PVC pipe. Photo Credit: Joe VanHulle, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)



USGS equipment inside the new Phosphorus Removal System (PRS) gage house will look similar to the inside of the current Bioreactor gage house. The equipment enables remote monitoring and sampling to occur before and after the PRS, while also providing real time data to the public. Photo Credit: Joe VanHulle, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)



With morning chores and a growing family, Mom always looked for shortcuts for meal prep. Her make ahead French Toast Bake was one of those and a “fam” favorite! Mom made it with homemade white bread that was a few days old, but I now prefer to use a little sturdier bread to keep the consistency firmer. – Jackie

Mom's French Toast Bake

INGREDIENTS

- 1 loaf sourdough or French bread (slightly stale or toasted)
- 8 large eggs
- 2 C whole milk
- ½ C heavy cream
- 1 Tbsp Vanilla
- ¾ C sugar
- ½ tsp cinnamon

TOPPING

- ½ C flour
- ½ C light brown sugar (packed)
- 1 tsp cinnamon
- ¼ tsp salt
- ½ C cold butter (1 stick), cut into pieces

DIRECTIONS

- Grease a 9" x 13" baking dish.
- Cut bread into 2" pieces and place in baking dish. Bread will overlap in dish.
- In medium bowl, mix eggs, milk, heavy cream, vanilla and sugar together.
- Pour over bread.
- Cover with plastic wrap and refrigerate overnight.
- For the topping, mix flour, brown sugar, cinnamon and salt in bowl.
- Cut butter cubes into dry ingredients until crumbly.
- Place the topping into a small plastic bag, seal, and refrigerate overnight in the baggie.
- When ready to bake, preheat the oven to 350°.
- Remove plastic from baking dish and sprinkle the topping evenly over the bread.
- Bake uncovered for 50-60 minutes, depending on the consistency desired.
- Let stand 5-10 minutes before serving.
- Dust with powdered sugar or serve with syrup.

