



# Project Recovery Newsletter

Project Recovery is Helping Wisconsin Farmers through a Pandemic

Phone 1-833-FARM-HELP (toll free) Free & Anonymous

7-18-21 **SUBSCRIBE**

Dial 2-1-1 and ask for Project Recovery



## It's in My Blood

I have been farming all my life. In grade school I had hogs, cattle, chickens, ducks, and geese- I would sell them to teachers at school and to local business owners who gave them to employees for Christmas gifts. When I was 12 years old, I bought my first New Holland manure spreader. Even in the hard and bad times...farming is in my blood, and I love it. I am a 4th generation farmer and I have heard stories from my uncle and past generations on how they got through hard times.

When COVID hit nobody went anywhere. The corn ethanol plant closed- the one that we haul to. There's one in Milton and there's one in Jefferson. The one in Jefferson closed. They closed it down because there just wasn't enough business and the price of corn had dropped from \$4.45 to \$3.71 per bushel and that's lower than the cost of production. We would be losing money if they are processing it at that price.

If it wouldn't have been for programs like the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) and the Corona Virus Food Aide for Farmers, stimulus checks, and crop insurance we would not have made it. The money we received from the government came in at a time when we couldn't pay our bills and that really helped us. We got a deal on grain bins through the coronavirus package from the USDA farm office. I could build a new grain bin or fix an old one and I chose the latter.

My ancestors didn't have it so nice. They came from Scotland and moved to Canada. They didn't have crop insurance and they experienced a three-year drought where they couldn't grow anything. They decided to move south to Clinton, WI and had to start all over with nothing. My great uncle and his brothers rented the farm from 1890 to 1902, before buying it. Their Clydesdale horses were the down payment and they had to pay \$11,000 more to own it outright. ———>



My Uncle, ol' Don, who gave me the farm, told me one year in 1934, the corn never made any ears on them. They still chopped the corn, threw it in a big pile, and piled it against telephone poles. He called it fodder and he fed that fodder to the cattle. He always found a way to make it work. Ol' Don also got through the time of the Great Depression. Knowing my past generations made it through hard times helps me to know I can too.

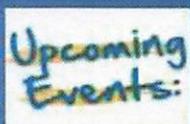
-Otis Newman - A Farmer from Walworth County

## 5 Ways Farmers Learn from New Challenges

1. Connect with the older generation. They have much to teach you about your future in agriculture.
2. Pay attention to the rise & fall of the markets.
3. Learn new ideas from neighbors, attend educational events and online classes. Check out UW Extension Ag. upcoming events [calendar](#).
4. Take a vacation. You can learn new ideas when you are relaxed and visit other farms along the way.
5. Don't quit. Learn from trial and error. [Read More](#)

## Project Recovery's **Spotlight** of the Week – U.S. Department of Agriculture

- U.S. Department of Agriculture provides leadership on food, agriculture, natural resources, rural development, nutrition, and related issues based on public policy, the best available science, and effective management.
- We preserve our Nation's natural resources through conservation. For more information go to [usda.gov](https://www.usda.gov)



- **Project Recovery's Upcoming Bi-Weekly Facebook Live Event** – July 29<sup>th</sup>, 2021, 2:00 PM  
Facebook Topic: Long Term Covid Effects
- Listen "Life During the Pandemic: Stories from Around the State" Podcast with Laura & Katy
- **UW Extension Event:** South Central Wisconsin Rural Landowner Workshop  
Tuesday, July 20, 2021, 6:30 – 7:30pm - [Register](#)