

Professional Dairy Systems
Equipment • Parts • Service • Supplies



DeLaval

We live milk

1449 Homecrest Avenue, Wadena
218-632-5416

Five generations in the family garden



**In proud recognition of
our local farmers**



**It's Fun For The Whole Family
in Sebeka** Fri.-Sun., June 14-15-16
during Red Eye River Days

We support our local farmers!

**CFB COMMUNITY
FIRST BANK**
www.communityfirstbankmn.com

PO Box 250
Menahga, MN 56464
218-564-4171



PO Box 311
Sebeka, MN 56477
218-837-5171

Antti and Wilhemeena Komppa homesteaded in Red Eye Township in 1896. Today their great-grandsons' families are the fourth and fifth generations of Komppas to live on the land. On the left are Eric and Anna Komppa, with his brother Frank and wife Megan on the right. Their ten children are, pictured left to right: Archie in his mother's arms; sitting, Oliver, Howie, Vivian, Elsa and Erwin; topside, Ted, Ina, Clara and Harlow. *Photos by Rebecca Komppa*

By Rebecca Komppa

It's September, and the leaves are changing color. The potato plants have died back, signaling it is time to harvest. Now comes the most enjoyable part after a summer of gardening – digging potatoes. It's a family event, with all the children and grandchildren digging in. Everyone is talking and laughing. The conversation is interrupted occasionally as one or another of the children call out, "Grandma, look!" as they hold up their big potato. That's how every gardening season ends in our garden. A "family garden" has been a part of the Komppa family legacy on the homeplace in Red Eye Township for five generations.

It's a good tradition. It gets the children outdoors and learning how to live off the land. There are carrots to dig, and onions to pull and dry. Green beans, peas

and cucumbers are constantly being picked to eat fresh and to preserve for winter eating. A favorite is the watermelon. The hard part is determining when it is ready to pull. Thumping it to "hear" if it's ripe has proven wrong more than it's been right. Checking for a yellow underside, or field spot, works better than thumping, but that test has failed us a few times, too. Even the dry stem test has missed the mark. Still, when you get it right and crack open a ripe melon, the grins spread from cheek to cheek on everyone's face.

Need more be said to expound why every child needs a garden? Plus, there's the added benefit that if the soil is healthy, worms will be found to go fishing.

Four generations take part in the preservation of summer's bounty. Great-grandma has the wisdom and the experience, and

(Garden continued on page 3)

**Enjoy the Good
Things in Life!**



**Pederson
& Pederson,
P.A.**

Jeffrey D. Pederson • Timothy J. Pederson
Wadena, 24 Colfax Ave. SW • 631-1228
Menahga, by appointment • 564-5565