



ELDON GARLISCH President Jeff Hackman. Garlisch's memories included how they did their butchering at home in the early years.

Garlisch remembers how farming was different in his early years

BY WENDY MARTIN

Rural Mason City farmer Eldon H. Garlisch, 75, started farming in 1968. He and his wife Cheryl are the parents of a son John and daughter Mary.

Although never a member of 4-H Eldon was a member of the Mason City High School FFA Chapter. His farming career was put on hiatus for two years between 1996 and 1968 while he served his country in the United States Army.

Crops he raised were the traditional corn and soybeans as well as wheat, oats and alfalfa.

Alfalfa was his favorite of the crops. He also raised cows/calves.

Eldon has been active in his church, St. Luke's Lutheran, serves on the Mason County Board, as well as on the Township Board and 40 years on the Elevator Board. He started at the San Jose Coop which merged into Taloma Farmers, which merged into Encompass Grain and Rail.

He found working with the elevator on the mergers was among his proudest moments.

Eldon's advice to young people starting out in farming is to have good financial backing.

Challenges farmers face now that he did not have to worry about in his younger days are all the regulations, especially for chemicals and fertilizer.

As for favorite memories of farming, he recalled when they did home butchering of hogs.

IFB veterinary scholarships

Illinois Farm Bureau® (IFB) is accepting applications for its Illinois Veterinary Education and Training (IVET) loan program. Loans are available to second-year veterinary students attending any accredited college of veterinary medicine in the U.S. and who are focusing on Illinois food animal medicine.

The Illinois Veterinary Education Training (IVET) Program helps offset the high cost of veterinary education. The program loans up to \$40,000 to as many as three veterinary students each year.

Loans are made over a period of two to three years. IVET awards recipients a \$1,500 stipend during their fourth year in school to help pay expenses associated with clinical rotations.

Loans are repaid over five years, during which graduates must commit to working in a food animal practice that services Illinois

livestock producers.

"To succeed, farmers need the services of a food-animal veterinarian to help them care for their beef cattle, swine, sheep and poultry. It's an incredibly rewarding career field that has seen an increase in demand in recent years," Bunting added.

Applications are due May 15, 2022 and can be found online at www.ilfb.org/IVET. The selection committee will interview eligible applicants in spring 2022. Successful applicants will be notified by mail. Loan disbursements begin in August.

IFB established IVET in 2005. Since then, the organization has awarded more than \$550,000 to 27 veterinary students who focus on caring for food animals in Illinois.

For more information about the program, contact Tasha Bunting at 309-557-2993 or tbunting@ilfb.org.

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