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GOULD FARMS HISTORY

Gould Farms is a family owned and operated grain and livestock operation headquartered in western Kane County, Illinois, about 50 miles west of Chicago, with additional land in DeKalb and DuPage Counties.

Eldon and his father Don started farming together in 1963 when Eldon graduated from the University of Illinois with an animal science degree. Prior to that, Don had worked extensively in agriculture, but not on his own operation. Eldon and his wife Sandra purchased the 160-acre “home farm” in 1968 and built a house there in 1975. Various hog buildings were built over the years, starting with a farrowing house in 1972 and most recently a breeding and gestation building in 1996. Gould Farms currently seeks new hog production opportunities.



Eldon first started constructing a grain handling facility in 1978. Since 2005, total farmed acres have nearly tripled. Current acreage is 760 owned and 4500 rented, with custom services performed on several hundred additional acres. To handle this growth in acres, the grain storage site has also grown to its current 400,000 bushels in bins as well as 180,000 bushels of flat storage. A secondary grain handling site with 240,000 bushels of capacity is rented. This storage allows for greatly improved sales timing and risk management as well as the ability to grow and store specialty crops such as non-GMO corn and seed soybeans.



Chris, Eldon’s son, returned to the farm after graduating from the University of Illinois and serving as a pilot in the Navy for 10 years. He initially started in accounting and field operations, and then assumed all management roles when Eldon was appointed as Administrator of the Risk Management Agency at the USDA in the fall of 2005. Chris retained management roles after Eldon’s return to the farm in 2008 but utilizes Eldon’s experience and expertise. Eldon is proud to have grown his 59th crop in 2022.

The Gould Family continues to look for opportunities to care for additional land and serve those landowners.

OPERATING PHILOSOPHY

Core Beliefs

- We believe that conducting business with honesty and integrity is paramount in protecting our good name and allowing others to feel confident in doing business with us.
- Protecting the resources God has entrusted to our care is of utmost importance. We must leave the air, soil, and water in as good or better condition than when we received it, allowing future generations to enjoy the same resources we do.
- We believe that early adoption of new technologies provides a competitive advantage. This requires continuous education and training, which we encourage for both family members and employees.
- The only way for a business to be sustainable is for it to also be profitable. All stakeholders – landowners, vendors, Gould Farms, and service providers – deserve a fair return for their investment of resources, products, and services.
- Our employees are a valuable part our operation. We expect a great deal from our employees and, in return, do our best to provide an excellent work environment, compensation, benefits, and flexibility.

Committed to this philosophy, Gould Farms will maintain its good reputation and will position itself for future generations to carry on the Gould farming legacy.

OPERATIONS

Farming Practices

Gould Farms plants approximately 50% of its acres to corn using reduced tillage or no till techniques to help prevent erosion. Soybeans account for 45% with winter wheat making up the balance. Much of our acreage is no-tilled. In addition to commodity crops, we grow non-GMO (genetically modified organism) corn and soybeans, Enogen corn, and seed soybeans.

