



Big Bertha

While most big tractors come with tracks these days, our newest addition to the farm is a 2018 CAT 965E with tires. This tractor came from Ziglar Caterpillar of Mason City, IA. We lovingly refer to her as “Big Bertha.” She has 550 horsepower and travels 25 miles per hour down the road. Of course, she comes with a buddy seat, which will make the kids happy. The plan is to use this tractor for spring disking, fall anhydrous applications and as a backup for fall tillage. We are excited to see her in action soon.



Farm Focus

I describe a 21st century business person as a hard-working individual, who must (at all times) be plugged into constantly changing news and world events. Whether it be war in eastern Europe, drought in South America, or chip shortages from Asia, it seems the world is getting smaller and smaller.

Having the ability to predict the unforeseen might be a pipe dream, but the need to see around the corners in front of us has never been greater in business, especially in agriculture. Explosive volatility in both inputs and outputs has taken risk and reward to decade highs. Not since the drought of 2012 have we seen these type of market gyrations. In the first 3 months of

the year, the new crop corn contract has rallied over a dollar. The growing season hasn't even begun yet, and we all know that each season comes with it's own surprises!

This type of market action (life altering grain sale decisions, inflation, gas prices, labor shortages, etc.) is one that can consume a person's life. I must remind myself of the blessings all around us, realizing that there is no blueprint for navigating times like these. I am sure things will settle into a more stable “normal” at some point, but it's uncertain what that will look like based on these last crazy years.

Let's all pray for peace and count our blessings. – Mark

“The only place
success comes
before work is in the
dictionary.”

Vince Lombardi

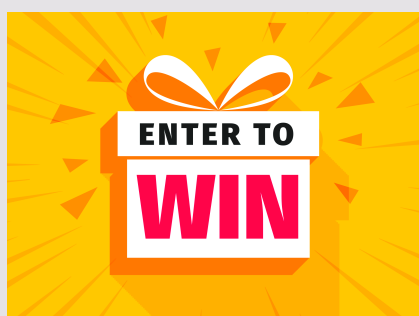


Farm Flashback

As a child I was constantly looking out the windows to check out the activities on the farm. I preferred to be outside in the midst of all the action. But on days when I had to be inside, I brought the farming with me. My parents had a blue shag carpet

which served me well for telling where I had planted (remember, this was before autosteer). So when I planted, the carpet would be laying in one direction, and when I harvested, the carpet laid the other way. It was a pretty sweet operation I had. While the

carpet has changed over the years, the desire by kids to plant the living room floor hasn't. Last fall, I moved back to this house with my own family, and now my delight is watching my children hone their farming skills in the living room.



Send us Your Story

What farm stories do you have? Big or small, we'd like to hear them all. Send us one of your stories from the past related to the farm or farming and be entered to win a \$100 gift card to your favorite restaurant.

Email stories to:
mkrogersfamily@gmail.com

Family Tradition

Cucumber & Tomato Salad

- 4 seedless cucumber, peeled or unpeeled
- 1 pint cherry tomatoes, quartered
- ½ an onion, diced
- Juice of one lemon
- 3 Tbs. parmesan cheese (optional)
- 1 Tbs. olive oil
- 1 tps. salt
- ¾ tps. black pepper
- ½ c. fresh basil, finely chopped (or 1Tb. dried basil if you don't have fresh basil)

Combine all ingredients. Refrigerate a few hours and then enjoy! This is a great salad to make with fresh goodies from your garden. 😊

