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Father-son farmers look to future in Durand

By Emily Hanlin
WINNEBAGO-BOONE FARM BUREAU

Dwayne Proctor, of Durand, is the second generation on his family farm. One of his three children, Brett, is the third generation and as they plan to progress their farm, they are focused on building their legacy.

"We look to expand where we can justify it," said Proctor.

Upon graduating from Illinois State University with a degree in General Agriculture and a minor in Biology, Proctor joined the Army Reserve.

While his active service only lasted 6 months, he was involved for 6 years. Successively, he then worked for Northrup King and Company, a seed business with a sales territory in Northern Illinois.

He was then relocated to cover Ohio and Michigan. He and his family moved to Lima, Ohio. After a merger with what is now Syngenta, he came back home to Durand.

It is here where he, his wife, and three children engaged fully in the family farm. He began renting land from his father as well as a few other acres. When an opportunity came up to buy a farm, the expansion process began.

"The next step was to go into partnership with my son, Brett," said Proctor, "and it's one of the better things I have ever done."

Today, the farm is equipped with grain storage, in several locations, and drying facilities as well as a 45 head herd of Red Angus and Simmental

beef cattle. They farm approximately 1,250 acres of row crops including corn and soybeans and 75-80 acres are in a Conservation Reserve Program.

The beef cattle are used for breeding and market. Proctor tells that he keeps back a few heifers every year as replacements and a few steers to feed out and sell to the locker plant. Most of his feeder calves go to a sale barn in Monroe, Wisconsin if they are not sold through a private transaction.

Aside from his time spent on the farm, Proctor devotes time to various agriculture-based organizations including 28 years on the Soil and Water Conservation district. He was also a representative for his Conservation district.

"We are kind of in a transition between urban and rural," said Proctor. East of his place is all urban, and so it was a bit of a challenge to get the urban needs into the association.

Despite the challenges, Proctor succeeded. He has also spent time on the Farm Bureau Board of Directors and the Winnebago County 4-H Show Board. He even devoted time to the Livestock, Fur and Feathers sale at the county fair.

"I felt it was time to move aside," said Proctor, "and let some others move in." He has resigned from the Soil and Water Board and Farm Bureau Board.

His time spent with these organizations led him to really believe in the ideas of conservation. "Minimum till, put the plow away and zero till, put the

chisel away," said Proctor. "Now we are moving into experimenting more with cover crops."

Besides conforming to a new conservation-aware way of farming, Proctor has also experienced a new wave of technology moving onto the farm.

"If I wasn't in partnership with my son, I probably wouldn't be as involved with the newer technology," said Proctor. "But, what I am finding out is that it is great to be in and using it. The hard part is remembering how to work it, but I know that Brett is only a phone call away."

Their tractors are equipped with auto-steer operated by a GPS, yield monitors, and variable rate application technology for soil sampling.

When it comes down to it, Proctor sees the reality of today's farmers. "Those that are expanding are probably going to survive fine," said Proctor. "Those of the older generation, those not willing to put any more into their businesses are on their way out. That's just the way it works." Proctor believes that the partnership he has with his son means that they are going to survive because of the extra generation that will keep it moving forward.

As I wrapped up my conversation with Mr. Proctor, I asked him what one message he would like to convey to consumers. Instead, he counteracted that request and offered some advice to producers.

"With the advent of immediate knowledge, everyone is out there putting out information that the consumers are hearing," said Proctor. "A lot of time it's not good stuff that they believe. We, as farmers have not done a good enough job telling our story."

I am thankful to Proctor and all of the farmers who are willing to share their stories with me and the public. It is important to understand not only where your food comes from, but who is producing it and how they do it. It is also important to go straight to the source: the farmer.

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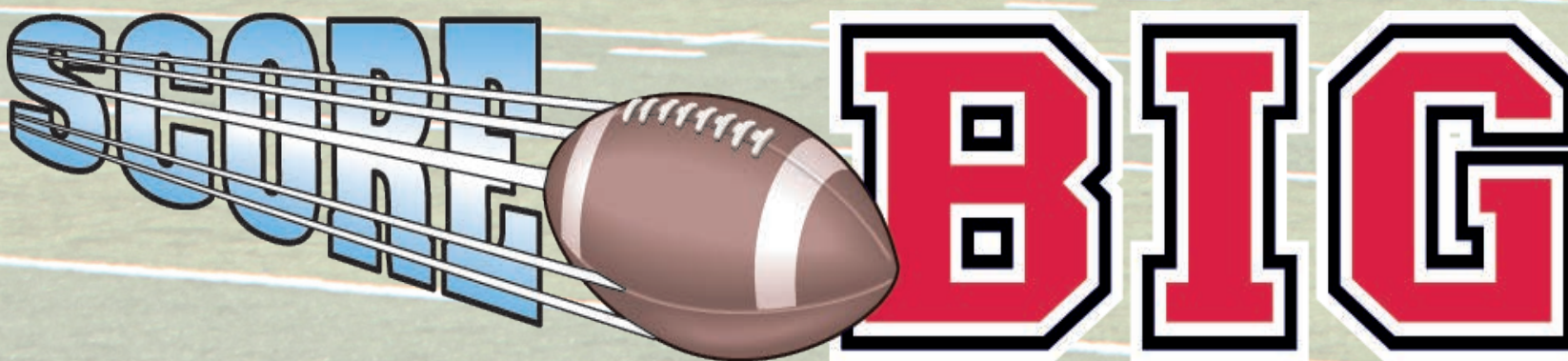
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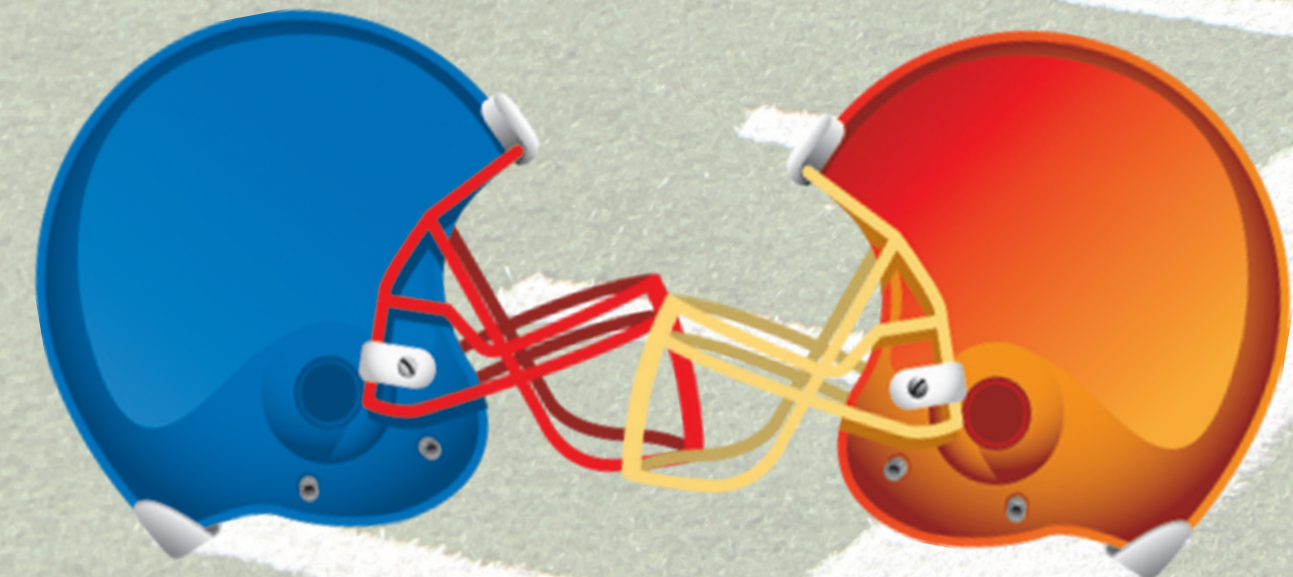
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2001 PONTIAC GRAND PRIX 2 door sedan, super charged, good condition. 262-654-6207

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JD 212 LAWN & GARDEN tractor with tire chains, snowblower, front blade and mower deck. \$1100 - 608-921-4010

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2007 YAMAHA VECTOR Rage Long Track. 4 stroke, low miles, 20mpg, Yamaha overnight luggage carrier. Many extras - call for details Health reason for selling. \$4600 - 608-345-8645

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Sports/Classic
Cars

1934 FORD P. U. LT-1 350, 370 Hp Chev. Polished ram intake, 6-97 carbs, turbo 400 trans. Chevelle 12 bolt posi. Crager mag wheels. 847-838-1916

1977 AUSTIN MINI with parts to convert to rear wheel drive, w/215 alum., V8 & 5 speed, wt. 1,500lbs Call 847-838-1916.

AVENGER FORD GT40 Tube frame, mid eng., turbo Buick v-6, 4 spd., silver, w/ chin spoiler. 847-838-1916

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SWAP MEET 52nd annual Greater Milwaukee Area indoor winter automotive & bicycle swap meet. Sunday February 26th 2017 held 8am-2pm at Washington County Fair Grounds. 3000 Cty. Hwy PV West Bend, WI 53095. admission \$6.00 under 12 free. This is Wisconsin's oldest and largest indoor swap meet. Questions call Vicki at 262-337-0426.

Sport Utilities

1999 JEEP GRAND CHEROKEE LTD 158 K mi Good tires body & motor A/C does not work \$2000 815-238-0642

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THE CLASSIFIEDS

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Reason #1: Shopping locally saves you gas and wear and tear on your vehicle.

Reason #2: When you spend your money locally, you support the businesses whose property taxes pay for our municipal services.

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Auction

ABSOLUTE REAL ESTATE AUCTION
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 12TH, 2017
3:00 P.M. SHARP!!!

LOCATION: 201 THORNHILL DR. SW POPLAR GROVE, IL. 61065

Vacant corner (Doane Way) lot in Candlewick Lake. Located 2 blocks from boat ramp to lake. Belvidere School District 100. HOA \$1076. RE Taxes \$261.06. Gated Community. When checking in the gate, give them this address for Open House/ Auction. This will be good the day of the auction only from 2-4 p.m.

**FOR FURTHER INFO OR PRIVATE SHOWING CALL AUCTIONEER: Lyle Lee
CELL PHONE #815-988-0249**

Terms of sale: Sold in "AS IS" condition. 20% down day of sale by cashiers ck or ck w/bank letter of guarantee. BALANCE DUE BY FEBRUARY 28TH, 2017. Title policy to be furnished at closing. Announcements day of sale prevail over written material. No warranties implied or expressed. Not responsible for accidents.

Owner: GeriAnn Zaluzec, Administrator



LEE AUCTION SERVICE

Belvidere, IL 61008 - Cell # 815-988-0249



AUCTIONEER: LYLE LEE, IL. State License #440.000200/ WI # 2863-52

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Hack's

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 4th – 10:00 A.M.

'Hack's Gold & Silver Coin Auction'

Hack's Auction Antique Center – 400 W. Third St., Pecatonica, IL

Featuring a fine selection of American Gold & Silver coinage. Graded Gold & Silver. American Gold Coins from 1851 Liberty Dollar to 2012 Eagles some graded. Prestige, Proof & Commemorative sets. Morgan & Peace silver dollars. American silver coinage from 1876 to present. Presidential Dollar Collection All graded. Large penny collection. And much more!

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 12th – 10:00 A.M.

'Hack's Americana-Vintage Toy-Antique Auction'

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Great Selection of Old Toys. American Flyer & Ives 'Standard' and Lionel 1923 Train Sets, Pressed Steel Vehicles, Structo & Tonka, Character, Battery Operated & Tin Litho Toys, Advertising & Signs, Early Banks & Cast Iron, Hill Climbers, Americana & Aunt Jemima Collection, Primitives & Collectibles, Furniture & Lighting, Old Freeport Memorabilia, Hot Wheels 'Red Line' Collection – over 250, Large Jeff Gordon Nascar Collection & others, Stoneware and Many More Unique Items. Log on for complete inventory and pictures!

REAL ESTATE AUCTION

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 25th 1:00 P.M.

634 E. Warren St., Rockton, IL

Spacious 4-Bedroom Ranch Home on Large Lot. Brick Fireplace. Full Basement. Attached Garage. Great Location Just 2-Blocks from Hononegah High School. Please Call for Complete Details or a Private Showing.

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- Most vehicles • Install new oil filter
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