

Clarence & Alva Arndt Agricultural Scholarship

Clarence and Alva Arndt were born, raised, and lived all of their lives in DeWitt County. Clarence was a third generation farmer of German descent. He began farming with his father and siblings in 1940 at the age of 15. While walking behind a plow led by mules and/or horses, he planted cotton, corn, and maize for his father. In 1947, Clarence married Alva Leubert and, together, they share cropped on approximately 500 acres. In 1957, Clarence and Alva purchased 215 acres in the Westhoff area. The land needed much care and clearing, and over the course of their lifetimes Clarence and Alva made significant improvements to the land. They made their living by raising chickens, sheep, hogs, cattle, and various other livestock, growing their own fruits and vegetables, and butchering their own livestock for meat. They truly lived off the land.

From 1960 until 1990, Clarence and Alva's primary income came from their hog business, which included feeding 600-700 hogs per day. The grain required to feed the hogs was grown, harvested, and milled by Clarence. His registered Duroc and Hampshire hogs won swine championships in local stock shows. However, when the hog markets closed in Nixon and Gonzales, it became necessary for the Arndt's to begin shipping their hogs out of state. Simultaneously, an influx of wild hogs began damaging their crops. These circumstances made Clarence and Alva decide to plant improved grasses on their fields and resort to raising cattle and custom hay baling as their primary sources of income.

Clarence was named the Conservation Comeback Farmer by the DeWitt County Soil Conservation District in 1959 and was presented the Outstanding Soil Conservation Award in 1964. He was inducted as an Honorary Chapter Farmer by Cuero's FFA during the 1974-75 academic year. And, in 1982 the DeWitt County Soil & Water Conservation District named him its Outstanding Farmer/Rancher.

Clarence continued to plow, plant, and bale crops until 2015 when at the age of 90 it became too difficult for him to climb into his "upgraded" air-conditioned cab tractor. Alva was his lifelong partner and right hand for over 70 years of marriage. Both were members of St. John Lutheran Church in Lindenau since birth. Their Christian faith guided them and kept them eternally grateful. Together they raised three children, Denise, Randall, and Michael, all of whom graduated from Cuero High School. The Arndt's genuine love and labor for the land, even with its challenges and struggles, has joyfully led them to establish the Clarence and Alva Arndt Agricultural Scholarship to support students who exhibit a sincere servanthood and a nurturing nature for soil and animal resources.



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