

2007 Larry Payne Farmer of the Year

Chapman Dairy Farm
Owner: Bill Chapman

Bill was born in Emmetsburg, Iowa where his father and grandfather were farmers. His farming heritage is very important to him. They moved to North Carolina when Bill was nine years old and began farming here. After a few years Bill's parents went to work in the furniture industry and the cows and chores were handed down to Bill. He continued milking until he was drafted in July of 1965. After his discharge from the United States Army in July, 1967 he began milking 17 Jersey cows.

Bill is married to Glenda, his wife of almost 40 years and they have three children; Gary, Laura and Daniel. Glenda is a registered nurse by profession, but for the past 12 years her main role for the farming operation has been financial bookkeeper. She also helps care for seven grandchildren. In the past she has also been very involved in the operation where she has driven silage trucks and hay wagons, fed calves, milked or just whatever needed to be done. Gary and Daniel are currently involved in the day to day operation of the farm. They have both worked with Bill since they were big enough to do chores. Laura was responsible for feeding calves until she married. She has taught school for 12 years and utilizes her experiences on the family farm to teach students about agriculture and where their food comes from.

Bill has always been very involved in the community. He served as President of Alexander County Farm Bureau and is currently on the board of

directors, served on the board of directors for Production Credit, and served as Chairman of Alexander County Extension Advisory Council and Dairy Specialized Committee. He was presented Alexander County Young Farmer and Rancher Award in 1974, Distinguished Service Award from Production Credit in 1984, Honorary Chapter FFA Degree for work with local FFA in 1992, Farm Family of the Year Award presented by Soil and Water Conservation Districts in 1999, Alexander County River Friendly Farm Award and a 15 year award for service as District Supervisor by NC Association of Soil and Water Districts in 2006.

Chapman Dairy currently milks 230 Jerseys with a Rolling Herd average of 16,000 pounds of milk. They raise 150 heifer replacements and farm approximately 500 acres. They grow 200 acres of corn, 60 acres of small grain, 50 acres of soybeans and 125 acres of hay. Bill has shown tremendous management ability in the dairy operation by utilizing good business practices, excellent record keeping systems, regular herd checks, nutrition programs, vaccination programs enabling him to control disease and utilization of modern technology to improve the operation.

All of the practices utilized on Chapman Dairy are “environmental friendly”. They are constantly striving to incorporate practices that will help to better the operation and preserve the family farm. Because of the concerns for the land and the environment, Chapman Dairy Farm has been recognized as a River Friendly Farm as well as Soil and Water Conservation District Farm Family of the Year.

As you can see, Bill has been and continues to be very involved in the leadership of agriculture and the dairy industry. He has been a spokesperson to the county commissioners on issues vital to the agricultural success in the county. Chapman Dairy Farm is very supportive of educational activities and is more than willing to educate the public about agriculture. Numerous Agriculture History Tours have toured the dairy where students are educated about dairy farming. They have opened their farm up for numerous activities over the past several years for local, regional and state events to educate and make people more aware about the importance of agriculture locally.

Chapman Dairy Farm is a true family farm and is constantly giving back to the community.