Time, Soil, and Children

Conversations with the Second Generation of Sustainable Farm Families in Minnesota

Beth E. Waterhouse
Acknowledgments

First, I want to thank my friend and colleague, University of Minnesota Agronomy Professor Steve Simmons, for asking the guiding question that led to the summer of interviews behind this writing. When I heard that I had the chance to do this project, I asked four of my friends and trusted colleagues to be "advisors" to this effort. I wish to acknowledge the support from each of them: Audrey Arner, Carmen Fernholz, Jennifer Kellen, and, again, Steve Simmons. They each helped me frame these thoughts, and assisted any time a question was posed. Thanks also to those who read the draft manuscript and helped me with revisions: Jennifer Kellen, now of Bemidji, Minnesota; Steve Simmons; Beth Nelson of MISA; Marjorie Savage of the Office for Student Affairs Parent Program; my mom, Elaine Waterhouse, who has an eagle eye for punctuation; and my husband, Don Maronde. I wish to acknowledge the patience and assistance of the MISA staff and Board for encouragement and for well-timed extensions on this effort.

Of course, thanks must go to the School of Agriculture Alumni for their foresight in creating this particular endowed chair. "While it embodies the values and traditions of several generations, the Endowed Chair is clearly focused on the future." These words from their brochure speak to the long-range vision of this alumni group, which we hope has been given life in this writing project.

My thanks to the families of those interviewed for their support and for the loan of their beautiful family photographs, which grace these pages.

Huge gratitude finally goes to all those interviewed who, without exception, welcomed a visit from me or sat with me over dinner or coffee and who shared stories, memories, opinions, and hopes. It is my own hope that your voices will be heard speaking boldly and often. I learned from you and gained so much from your thinking as well as the great opportunity to pull all our ideas together for our readers.

—Beth Waterhouse, July of 2004