

Zach Beckley

Rich Noonan

Noonan Farms

A typical day at Noonan farms starts out with Rich or myself going and feeding cattle. around 6:30 am. By 8 o'clock Joyce is gone with her nephews doing what she loves running Noonan Insulation. When cattle are fed you go and grab a cup of coffee out of the shed and start your day as a farmer. In the heat of the summer days are short for myself unless its hauling manure day. On manure day its go go go as I load the spreader and Rich hauls for me. In the middle to end of September corn is ready to go and we start our harvesting season. Rich is also a grain farmer running around 1,000 acres of farmland. Rich is the operator Joyce(Wife) is the bookkeeper making sure all the feed bills and machinery loans are paid on time.

Rich and Joyce lived in Houston, Texas before moving to the town of Otter Creek. Rich grew up in Bernard and Joyce grew up in California. Rich and Joyce started a business much like the Pro Shop here in town, making t-shirts and personalized clothes to fit everyones need. The business were going very good until the company grew so much that the Noonans could not take the stress of the business and closed the doors in the summer of 1998.

In the Fall of 1998 the Noonans decided to move back to Rich's native area to start a new life here. Rich started very small in the beef cattle industry by originaly purchasing one semi load of steers(30-35) and 20 beef cows. Rich has now grew to around 300 head of steers and he has gotten rid of the beef cows. Rich runs about 500 head through his operation a year with selling and buying a group every 2

months.

Rich is an avid volunteer in our little town by letting myself or a few other operators run his equipment to plow snow for the neighbors and to help out with church projects. Rich is a great guy with a selfless and true to his word mentality. He is a great employer for myself with the farm being less than half a mile from my house. We work long and hard to get things done, but I assure the job is done correctly.

Rich let me purchase a steer from him and 3 cows. We are now trying to breed the cow with a bull of his to extend my herd and hopefully when I get out of high school have 10 animals of my own. I would like to buy Noonan Farms when Rich retires because of the nice buildings and wonderful equipment he has. Rich maintains his ground the best he can. He is a believer in the crop rotation system which is good for his ground now and to produce rich soil for years to come.