Oftentimes, farmers are philosophers. They spend a lot of time by themselves operating equipment, and when things are running smoothly, they have time to think. Rodney Brown is one of those philosopher-farmers, and he’s been thinking about the power of an education.

Rodney grew up on the farm near Crary, North Dakota, where he lives today. His mother was a teacher who insisted her boys do their homework; skipping school was not an option. Even when the temperature dipped to thirty below, Rodney walked the three and a half miles to school and back home again.

Rodney became a full-time farmer immediately after high school and learned his trade on the job. His operation included a variety of small grains and a prize herd of purebred Hereford cattle. While he has no regrets about his life choices, Rodney believes that “helping a kid get an education is a good thing to do.” And that is just what the Rodney J. Brown Endowed Scholarship is destined to do.