

# Richard and Kaye Volk

## Family Program Endowment

A motto Richard truly believed in, "Agriculture is the backbone of the Lake Region community", Richard and his wife, Kaye, felt compelled to give back to the industry that supported their family for years. When the Hofstad Ag Center was built, Richard, a good friend of Curtis Hofstad, felt this was an appropriate way to give back. After Richard died in an unfortunate farm accident, Kaye knew she wanted to honor his wishes with a program endowment supporting the Lake Region State College Agriculture Department.

Richard lived on the family farm his entire life, growing up and farming first with his father, and then as the owner and operator of the farm operation. He and Kaye were both graduates of St. Mary's High School in Devils Lake. After graduation Kaye went to work at the National Tea Grocery Store in Devils Lake. Richard and Kaye were married in 1964, and Kaye moved to the Volk family farm to begin their married life. The Volks had four children: Allen, Wanda, James, and Brian. The family had a good life on the farm, working hard and enjoying the fruits of their labor and love.

Although Richard had a passion for farming and never tired of tending the soil, his true loves were his family and his church. Richard loved to travel and was a prodigious reader. He would research and consume knowledge on a wide range of subjects, including the

countries he would travel to. As an active member of his church and of his community, Richard served on many boards and in many capacities. He was a 4-H leader and served on the Ramsey County Fair Board for many years. The Pederson Arena was built when Richard was on the Fair Board. He was a member of the Starkweather School Board, the Webster

Township Board, the Landman's Association of North Dakota (L.A.N.D), Forward Devils Lake, and the Elks Lodge. Richard was also very active in his church, serving as a CCD teacher, a lector at Mass, and was a life member of the Knights of Columbus. Kaye is still active in the community she grew up in and the church she attends. For many years, Kaye served as secretary on the Webster Township Board. She was the assistant postmistress in Webster for ten years. However, she considers her most important job as being a devoted wife to Richard, raising her family, and

having the opportunity to "babysit" her grandchildren when they were small.

The Richard and Kaye Volk Family Program Endowment was started in 2021 and provides support to the Ag Department and to all the students attending this program, encouraging all of us to use conservation methods to protect the land the Volks love.

