

He Was A Farmer

Farmers are found in fields plowing up, seeding down, returning from, planting to, fertilizing with, spraying for and harvesting it.

A farmer is a paradox - he is an "overallled" executive with his home his office; a scientist using fertilizer attachments; a purchasing agent in an old straw hat; a personnel director with grease under his fingernails; a dietician with a passion for alfalfa, animals, and antibiotics; a production expert faced with a surplus; and a manager battling a price-cost squeeze. He manages more capital than most of the businessmen in town.

He likes sunshine, good food, state fairs, dinner at NOON, auctions, his neighbors, Saturday nights in town, his shirt collar unbuttoned, and above all a good soaking rain in August. He is not much for droughts, ditches, throughways, experts, weeds, the eight-hour day, helping with the housework, or grasshoppers.

Nobody else is so far from the telephone or so close to God. Nobody else gets so much satisfaction out of modern plumbing, favorable weather, and good ice cream.

A farmer is both Faith and Fatalist - he must have faith to continually meet the challenges of his capacities amid an ever-present possibility that an act of God (a late spring, an early frost, tornado, flood, drought) can bring his business to a standstill. You can **REDUCE HIS ACREAGE**, but you can't **RESTRAIN HIS AMBITION**.

Might as well put up with him - he is your friend, your competitor, your customer, your source of food and fiber, and self-reliant young citizens to help replenish your cities. He is your countryman - a denim-dressed, business-wise, fast-growing statesman of stature.

And when he comes in at noon having spent the energy of his hopes and dreams, he can be recharged anew with the magic words: "The Market's up."



NISHNA VALLEY FUNERAL AND CREMATION SERVICE
SHENANDOAH, IOWA



In Loving Memory

LeRoy M. Spears

LeRoy Mart Spears, son of Arnold S. Sr, and Mildred (Mart) Spears LeRoy was born on May 14th, 1937, in Shenandoah, Iowa. He passed away on June 11th, 2021, at the Villisca Good Samaritan Society in Villisca, Iowa at the age of 84 years, 28 days.

He graduated from Farragut High School with the Class of 1955 and while there was the seventh District Chairman of Farm Bureau for the Young Farmer committee. He farmed with his father and together operated a small dairy. He was drafted into the Army in 1960 and became a Drill Sergeant with the rank of E-5. He had an honorable discharge in 1962 and received the Good Conduct Medal. After returning home, he continued to assist his father with farming. They also started custom baling and combining, livestock hauling, and began a hog operation.

On August 3, 1969, LeRoy married Karon Millikan (married for 51 years). In 1974, LeRoy attended Veteran's Farm School at Iowa Western Community College for three years. When his father passed away, LeRoy and his wife, Karon, continued to farm and run the hog operation for many years. LeRoy's love for the farm resulted in him being involved in farming for over fifty years. LeRoy mentioned often how he loved the smell of dirt after it was worked.

After leaving swine production, he worked at several different businesses. He welded at Steel Fabrication and Diamond D Trailer Manufacturing for two years each. He was then employed at the Eaton Corporation for a short time before joining Wal-Mart, where he worked for twelve years. LeRoy also served on the Fremont County Farm Bureau Board, the Fremont County Extension Board, and the Farragut School Board.

LeRoy loved his wife, children, grandchildren, and many friends. He enjoyed having the family home for the holidays. He belonged to the Trinity Lutheran Church and enjoyed singing in the choir. He was also on the Acts of Love Committee at the church. While growing up, LeRoy attended the Congregational Church in Farragut, IA, and sang in the choir and taught Sunday School. He sang with the Plainsman, enjoyed assembling model cars, and working on his 1953 Chevy. He and his wife also enjoyed designing plates that they sold at Craft Fairs. LeRoy was known for being a jokester and always trying to coax a smile from everyone he met.

Preceding LeRoy in death were his parents, Arnold Sr. and Mildred Spears; two brothers, Arnold Jr. Spears (Darlene) and Eldon Spears (Marie); father and mother-in-law, Donald and Frieda Millikan; brother-in-law, Jack Millikan; niece-in-law, Dawn Millikan; and great nephew, Jeffrey Holliman.

Survivors include his wife, Karon (Millikan) Spears of Shenandoah; daughter, Lynette (Spears) Russell (Alex) of Firth, NE; son, Donovan Spears of Kansas City, MO; grandchildren, Saige Russell, Zayne Russell, Camden Simpson, Emma Simpson and Autumn Berry; brother-in-law, Jerry (Karon) Millikan of Red Oak, IA; sister-in-law, Marilyn Millikan; nieces and nephews; other relatives; and many friends.

In Loving Memory

LeRoy M. Spears

May 14, 1937 ~ June 11, 2021

84 years, 28 days

VISITATION

12:00 pm to 8:00pm

Sunday, June 20, 2021

Nishna Valley Funeral and Cremation Service
Shenandoah, Iowa

CELEBRATION OF LIFE FUNERAL

11:00 am

Monday, June 21, 2021

Trinity Lutheran Church

Shenandoah, Iowa

Pastor Wade Brandt ~ Words of Comfort

BEARERS

Shawn Millikan Mike Millikan Shad Millikan
Todd Millikan Randy Spears Camden Simpson

HONORARY BEARERS

Richard Ohrt Carl Mattes Randy Thompson
Dennis Holliman Bob Saunders Richard Robinson
Bill Simpson Gene Shelton Jeff Owen Weston Shepard
American Legion Post #88 Family Trinity Lutheran Church Family

REGISTRY

Nancy Ohrt ~ Judy Mattes

CROSS BEARER

Matt Millikan

FLOWERS

Jennifer Golden ~ Cindy Shelton

MUSIC

"I'm But A Stranger Here"

"On Eagles Wings"

"Amazing Grace"

"Going Home"

Dean Adkins Jean Debban ~ Vocalists

Kris Adkins ~ Organist

PLACE OF REST

Rose Hill Cemetery ~ Shenandoah, Iowa

MEMORIALS

Shenandoah American Legion Post #88

RECEPTION

Following the committal service, everyone is invited for food and fellowship at the Trinity Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall