

SundermanSM
FARM MANAGEMENT

The

SOURCE

KNOWLEDGE FOR FIELDS AND YIELDS

February 2019

A Lasting Legacy

Building Soil Health

SFM History

Sunderman Farm Management Co.
1309 1st Ave S, Suite 5
Fort Dodge, IA 50501

Building Soil Health

As stewards of farmland and the environment, landowners are familiar with the saying, "Leave your land better for the next generation." Implementing programs for farm owners and operators to improve soil erosion, nutrient management, and conservation is a top priority for many, but can easily be pushed onto the back burner, especially during challenging years. A viable option for improving soil sustainability and nutrient management has been sprouting up across more acres each year. The new technique is the use of cover crops. Cover crops are plants that keep the soil protected when the main cash crop is harvested. A cover crop is not meant to be harvested. In Iowa,

the main cover crop options are cereal grains like wheat or rye. Cover crops can help with issues such as erosion, weeds, biodiversity, and disease. Sunderman Farm Management (SFM) is a strong advocate for the implementation of cover crops and believes they are very useful for improving your soil for generations to come.

Cover crops are a tool that can bring economic and environmental advantages to your farm. In 2017, Iowa cover crop acres increased 22 percent from the previous year to an estimated 760,000 acres according to the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship. With a focused effort on nutrient reduction and soil health, this number

continued →

Here for You *By: Brent Larson*

At Sunderman Farm Management Company, we strive to bring you the best farm management service possible. Since 1961, our team has been helping landowners and farm operators find beneficial ways to work together and take care of the land together in the most efficient way possible.

You may have noticed by now that this newsletter is something new for us. We want you to know that we are constantly thinking of our clients and how we can help you stay up to date with current events in the industry and within our company. In this publication and future editions, you will find notes from our land managers, client features, conservation news and a variety of other information that we feel is relevant to our clients to help you with continued success and improvement. If there is anything you

would ever like to see or learn about in future newsletters, please reach out to the Sunderman Farm Management team to let us know. We want you to find value in these newsletters.

We take pride in providing service second to none in our industry. As owners and operators of our own family farms, we are constantly trying new farming techniques and conservation options to provide first-hand experience in our client relationships. As always, thank you for trusting us to manage your farmland. We are thrilled to be your trusted partners in continued growth.

From our family to yours, we hope you are healthy and prosperous in 2019! 🍀



is expected to rise. Iowa Secretary of Agriculture Mike Naig says, "As we have seen cover crop acres increase significantly in recent years, we are also getting more data on the long-term value of cover crops to farmers." This referenced data has shown benefits through erosion control, improved yields with better soil structure, water retention in the soil profile, movement of nutrients to optimal soil levels, and increased organic matter. As a landowner, these benefits can have positive impacts on soil longevity and on yields.

Oftentimes as a landowner, there may be concerns around using cover crops stemming from fear of increased input costs and potentially negative effects on yields. There is an additional input investment, but the long-term returns

are found in soil health, soil stability, nutrient management, and yield stability. Cover crops keep soil and nutrients on your farm to protect water quality and facilitate healthy soil biology. It can take several years to reap the benefits, but with patience this can stabilize and increase profitability across your acres.

Sunderman Farm Management can help implement a plan to leave a better, more productive and protected soil structure for future generations. Reach out to SFM today to be proactive in making decisions to improve soil health on your land. 🌱

Our History

Sunderman Farm Management (SFM) has a strong foundation built on trust, knowledge, and expertise resulting in the longevity of the company. In 1961, Roger Sunderman used his 15 years of farm management and agricultural real estate experience to start the company to help landowners be successful with their farmland. With that vision, Roger Sunderman hired Brian Larson, a U.S. Soil Conservation Service employee, in 1969. Brian provided expertise in tile drainage system engineering and design, as well as practical farming experience. Together, they made SFM the outstanding company we know today.

In 1983, Brian took ownership of the company. The honest, open, and trustworthy approach he and his



Brian Larson with Lyda and Roger Sunderman

employees provide to their clients has helped Sunderman Farm Management grow. The SFM team's combined experience in partnering with land owners, along with their expertise in production agriculture and management, ensures the highest quality service in the industry. 🌱

A Lasting Legacy

When a family has owned land for 150 years, you know they cherish the land and want to take care of it to share with future generations of the family. That is how the Sandberg family's land has been preserved. Mrs. Sandberg partnered with Sunderman Farm Management in 1990 to ensure the land would be in her family for the next 150 years.

In Iowa, the Sandberg land sits in Webster, Boone, Greene, Clay and Buena Vista Counties. Within Clay county, there lies a town known as Peterson that was settled by Mrs. Sandberg's family. It's incredible to think that the land their late relatives farmed is still the same land they own today. It is an incredible thing and not something many people can claim.

For 28 years, the Sandbergs have enjoyed working with Sunderman Farm Management for a multitude of reasons. Customer service is something that the Sandbergs appreciate most. They value the outgoing personalities of the employees and how easy it is to get in touch with someone when they have concerns or questions. The Sandbergs want to pass on their farmland to future generations and they feel confident that Sunderman Farm Management is going to help them achieve that goal.

When Mrs. Sandberg's husband and father passed, it was a huge undertaking for her to figure out what to do with the land both men left to her. Sunderman employees not only went beyond their expected duties but exceeded the expectations of the Sandbergs. They helped at a crucial time and showed the Sandbergs just how incredible it is to have an extra hand with managing the farms.

Sunderman Farm Management



The Sandberg family along with friends in 2018

provides monthly and annual reports, as well as projections for the future and advice on how the family should handle situations that arise. Elisabet Ibach (Sandberg) said, "We have annual farm meetings with my family and Brian, Mark, and Brent. It's a great opportunity to have a substantive conversation and gain an understanding of policies, practices, and current trends in land management. I think when people don't have a live face-to-face opportunity with their Sunderman partners they're missing out on a great asset."

The entire family is involved at the annual meeting which allows for everyone's questions to be answered. They are all given the same information which doesn't leave room for failure because of poor communication. The meeting even works as a learning tool for the younger family members. "The annual meetings are beneficial in that they allow the next generation to participate and gain knowledge they will need in the future as our generation prepares to pass the farmland on to them," Britta Sandberg said.

"I can't imagine navigating all that we do as landowners without their support and guidance," Elisabet said. No matter how much land you own or how long it's been in your family, Sunderman Farm Management makes sure you never lose your legacy. 🌿