

## **“GRATITUDE”**

### **THANK YOU TO THE AMERICAN RANCHER AND FARMER!**

With agriculture running in your veins you have most likely heard this saying many times, “you can take the boy off the farm but you cannot take all the farm out of the boy.” Having grown up on a family farm in west central MN and loving the lifestyle and experiences of livestock and grain farming, I will always have “gratitude” in my heart for the agriculture industry. In my mind there is no place better to grow up to learn lessons about life, faith in God, develop a good work ethic and as well to learn firsthand determination to pull thru in difficult times, (droughts, floods, snowstorms, hailstorms, low market prices, loss of stock, etc.).

The American ranchers and farmers are some of the hardest working, productive and faithful people on planet earth! I know firsthand because I’ve lived the life. So with this thought in mind today and with gratitude in my heart I say a personal “Thank you” from Hope For the Rancher for all you, for all you do and for who you are! You are best of the best of America! You are the heart and soul of our Nation!

Listed below is just a few reasons why:

- Family Ranchers and farmers Feed America!** Families own and operate 97% of ranches and farms in the U. S.
- Each U.S. Farmer Feeds 154 People.** American ranchers and farmers are very productive people. Today each farmer produces food and fiber for 154 people in the U. S. and abroad.
- Americans Pay Less For Food.** U.S consumers spend just 10% of their disposable income on food each year. In other Country’s percentages range from 15-47%! The American ranchers and farmers are highly productive! You are comprised of only 2% of the population of America yet have direct impact on our whole Nations livelihood!
- American Ranchers and Farmers Receive Far Less of the Retail Dollar.** The U. S. rancher and farmer receives just 16 cents of each dollar of retail that is spent on food costs. Yet, just from 2006 to 2011 costs of production have risen a whopping 33%.
- During planting, haying, harvest and calving season it’s common to put in 100-120 hour weeks.**

This is just a few of the statistics about the American Rancher and Farmer. My heart is full of gratitude today and again I say a special thank you to you for all of your dedication, commitment, hard work and productivity.

But with this thought of “GRATITUDE” we must never forget to always be thankful in our hearts for our creator God. God not created us but He provides for us and sustains our lives! We truly have so much to be thankful for. Just to name a few things we should be thankful for: family, health, friends, possessions, finances, gifts/talents, and we certainly cannot forget Jesus and eternal life!

Psalm 100 is a picture of a heart that is filled with “GRATITUDE” for all the God has done for us.

**“Shout joyfully to the Lord, all the earth. Serve the Lord with gladness; come before Him with joyful singing. Know that the Lord Himself is God; it is He who made us, and not we ourselves; we are His people and the sheep of His pasture. Enter His gates with thanksgiving and His courts with praise. Give thanks to Him; bless His holy name. For the Lord is good; His loving-kindness is everlasting and His faithfulness to all generations.”**

**We see seven reasons from this Psalm that we should have a heart of “GRATITUDE.”**

**They are:**

- 1. God reveals Himself**
- 2. God made us and is in control**
- 3. We are His people**
- 4. God cares for us**
- 5. God is exceedingly good to us**
- 6. God’s mercy never ends**
- 7. God is forever faithful!**

**Why not take a few moments right now and thank God for who he is, for what he has done and for all the blessings you have and especially for eternal life in His son Jesus Christ!**

**“Dear Father God, thank you for creating me and sustaining my life. I thank you for who you are and for all that you have done for me, for my family and friends, gifts and abilities, for my health and finances but especially Father for eternal life in your Son Jesus Christ. I thank you for my life of ranching and farming. Forgive me Father God for the times that I haven’t been thankful and I ask thru the power of your Holy Spirit to give me a heart of Gratitude each and ever day. In Jesus name I pray, amen.”**

**In Christ’s love,**

**Donn Jibben**

**Hope For The Rancher**

**GIVE THANKS WITH A GRATEFUL HEART!!**