Thanks to the 2020 Kansas Ag Heroes!

Dave Lorson

I would like to nominate my father, Dave Lorson, for the Ag Hero Program. He was born and raised in Hope and has served the community his entire life. He was the high school boys' coach at Hope High for 13 years before retiring in 2005 to focus on the farm. Our family operates a small 3rd generation farm. My father and my uncle, Jim, are the only members left to keep the farm going and the work they do day in and day out inspires me every day. My father also owns his own mechanic shop, Dave's Auto and Diesel, which helps serve our community in Hope, and also numerous small communities across multiple counties. He has a reputation of being a kind, hard-working, honest man and has been able to grow his business outside of Hope based on as his reputation for being trustworthy and reliable.

We buy, feed, and sell butcher steers and every year corn, wheat, milo, and soybeans are planted and harvested. This year in particular has been hard. On top of everything going on due to Covid, my uncle experienced a medical setback that resulted in spinal surgery just 2 weeks ago. Due to his debilitating injury, he was unable to help my Dad on the farm as usual. My Dad planted every single grain of wheat, every kernel of corn, all the soybeans and milo by himself. He did it without a word of complaint and without asking anyone for help. He bought and tended to over 250 head of cattle that he fed them twice a day, every day. Unfortunately, because of Covid, he took a hard-financial loss but continued to help out other farmers by fixing their farm equipment, often with no charge. He gets up every day and keeps going with no signs of stopping. He had a heart attack 3 years ago and despite everyone in the family telling him he needs to relax and work less; he knows he's the only one who can keep the farm functioning. He recently told me that his last day off was August 9th, 2019. He's approaching 365 straight days of work and yet he doesn't ever let on just how hard this year has been on him.

To me, he is the epitome of a Kansas farmer. He works himself to the bone because it's what needs to be done. That work ethic seems to be fading in this world. I would love for him to be recognized for being the last of a dying breed. I humbly ask you to consider him for this honor.

Nominated by Jackie Lorson