



Bumann has lifelong ties to agriculture

■ by BRENT HARM
IDA COUNTY COURIER

Roger Bumann, an Ida Grove area farmer, has been farming since he was a kid, and has been involved in ag-related activities all his life. Bumann described his farming experience and operation.

"I grew up on a farm about five miles south of Ida Grove, what I call the homeplace," said Bumann. "Now I live about two miles west of the homeplace. I used to have livestock, but I got rid of them quite a few years ago. I've got corn, soybeans, and a little bit of hay. I've got about 200 acres of each (corn and soybeans), and the hay is mainly waterways and headland, maybe 15 acres."

Bumann talked a bit about his family.

"My wife Karen and I have three daughters and

four grandchildren. One lives in Phoenix, Arizona, one in Raleigh, North Carolina, and the youngest lives in Eddyville, southeast of Des Moines."

Bumann discussed some of the most rewarding aspects of farming.

"I like seeing the changes in technology," explained Bumann. "And the chemicals we use now are so much improved. This year my beans did right at 80 bushels (per acre). I've never had that before. Some of those late rains must've really helped. The crops are looking good around here. We're pretty fortunate, as dry as it was in June. That was a surprise."

Bumann also talked about some of the biggest challenges of farming.

"Sometimes it's just the weather," stated Bumann.

"The cost of the inputs has really gone up, but that

goes with the new technology."

Bumann mentioned some of the highlights of his farming career.

"In 2018, I received the 'Distinguished Service to Agriculture' award through Farm Bureau. It was a big surprise and quite rewarding. They only give out two awards per year. When I had livestock in the 80's, I topped the Sioux City cattle market one time and then the hog market another time."

Bumann talked about what he feels are some of the main concerns for farmers today.

"Some of the top issues are input costs and the availability of chemicals and fertilizer. Conservation's a big part of farming too, and taking care of our water quality."

Bumann discussed some of the latest technology be-



Photo by Brent Harm • Ida County Courier

Bumann known for his grilling: Local farmer Roger Bumann stands next to the Ida County Pork Producers grill, which he has used to satisfy many appetites.

ing used in agriculture.

"The GPS on the machines anymore is really something. You can actually have a tractor and grain cart come up to your combine with nobody driving

the tractor."

Bumann mentioned some of the organizations and activities that he is involved with.

"I've been on the Farm Bureau board at least 30 years, and same with the Pork Producers. Right now I'm chairman of the NRCS (Natural Resources Conservation Service). I'm also vice-commander of the American Legion in Schleswig. This spring I went on the Honor Flight

for veterans to Washington D.C."

Bumann also likes working with children.

"When I've got time, I help the kids with Ag in the Classroom. I've been involved with that for years. It's fun going into the classroom and talking to the little kids with all their questions. They need to know where their food comes from. Some just think it comes from the grocery store."

Ida County Program Technician Permanent Position

The USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) Office in Ida Grove, Iowa is accepting applications to fill a **permanent Program Technician position**. Workload demand is providing this opportunity to increase staffing levels.

The individual selected will be responsible for carrying out general office activities and technical functions pertaining to FSA programs. Training will be provided for FSA programs.

Skills an applicant must possess include:

- positive and friendly customer service skills
- math and computer skills
- be detail-oriented
- high multi-tasking and organizing skills
- the desire and ability to learn FSA programs

A general knowledge of agricultural practices is also beneficial.

Hourly pay rates range from \$14-\$27 depending on qualification and experience of the applicant. Benefits include Federal health insurance, retirement and more. The individual selected will be required to pass a full background investigation with fingerprint check.

The full vacancy announcement with mandatory online application requirements can be found at www.usajobs.gov by entering **FSACO-11708603-23-IA-KW** in the keywords field. Contact the Ida County FSA Office at 712-364-2126 (option 2) if you have questions.

Applications can only be submitted online from November 3, 2022 through November 16, 2022!

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