

COUNTRY *Diva*

HONORING TODAY'S CONFIDENT COUNTRY WOMAN

DIVA SHOW & TELL
Country Creativity

DIVA CUISINE
Carmelized Wings
French Burnt Peanuts
Peasant Bread
Banana Nut Cookies

DIVA HOME
Mason Jar Fun

DIVA RETREAT
Why not LaCrosse?



Fall 2015

Country Diva \$3



Faith, Hope and Farming
Meet Our Country Diva
Debbie Bauman

**Carrying On The
Farming Tradition**
Kate Glastetter - Caney Creek

Faith, Hope and Farming: Today's Farmer's Daughter

When the phrase **Farmer's Daughter** comes to mind, visions of a naïve, shy, backwoods girl may be conjured up.

Today's Farmer's Daughter, however, is more accurately symbolized by strength, industriousness, and faith; who better to represent them than Debbie Bauman of Stratford, Wisconsin.



Above: Farmer's daughter Debbie Bauman.

'I was the oldest of nine children,' explains Debbie. 'My Dad had also grown up on a farm in Iowa and was the embodiment of the hardworking American farmer. He worked hard and expected all of us kids to work hard as well.'

While in the 3rd Grade, Debbie was already helping her father prep cows for milking. By the 8th grade, Debbie already had her own set of milking units so she could assist her father from the other end of the barn.

FROM FARMER'S DAUGHTER TO FARMER'S WIFE

'I was born a farmer's daughter and then became a farmer's wife,' explains Debbie. 'It actually makes me smile when I think about that because I was sure when I was in high school that I would never marry a farmer. Having to do chores morning and night and making hay in the summer really interfered with a teenaged girl's social life, and I could never imagine willingly choosing that life. Ironically, I am the only one of my nine siblings that is farming now and can easily say that I wouldn't want any other life.'

Debbie married her husband, Dave, in August of 1985 and moved to her husband's family farm where they entered into a partnership with Dave's brother Terry. There the couple raised three sons: Matt, who is a strength and conditioning

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coach at University of Minnesota; Duluth, who with his wife, Katie, made Debbie a new grandmother to grandson Bo. Their second son, Dustin, is a Project Manager for JF Brennan's Fox River Environmental Clean Up Project; and Jordan is their youngest who started med school in Madison this past August.

'I think that being raised on a farm taught me so many valuable things, and I am so happy that my husband and I were able to raise our three sons on my husband's family farm as well,' explains Debbie. 'It is a great way to raise a family because you are working together with your children.'

She says, 'Although none of them wanted to stay and take over the farm, they all would tell you that growing up on our



farm taught them the importance of hard work."



FARMING AND FAITH

In addition to providing a stable and ethical family atmosphere, farming also holds a special affection for Debbie in spring planting season. 'The smell of the freshly worked soil and the anticipation of the crops that you help to grow, is one of the reasons I love this life,' says Debbie. 'It is just this very thing that has helped mold me through the years and equip me to be the Mom of a son who has battled cancer twice. How has farming helped you through that, you may ask, but the answer is easy--FAITH. When you plant the seeds into the ground, you believe, even though you don't see the full grown plant immediately, that the seeds you have planted will grow into fruition.'

Long before Debbie's son, Jordan, was diagnosed with cancer, her younger sister was diagnosed with cancer and later on her father as well.



Above: A retreat created as a result of Debbie's passion for landscaping.

'I can remember his battle so clearly, the way he suffered yet never quit believing he would win and continued to farm until about five months before he passed away. He farmed until he didn't have the strength to keep working. Farming and the love of the land was in his very soul.'

'Although each of these cancer battles were very difficult times in my life, it was Jordan's battles that have forever changed the way I view life and each new day. Even though it has been eight years since Jordan was first diagnosed with Hodgkin's lymphoma, I can tell you almost second by second of the time leading up to the diagnosis. It is something that parents just never can erase from their minds.'

'The fear is the most awful thing, but once we were given the exact diagnosis along with the treatment plan, my farm life upbringing kicked in. I set about keeping my faith

in God's plan for Jordan and our family, along with a positive attitude. Jordan made this easier, since he demonstrated a strength that both inspired and comforted us. He didn't complain, and, like my Dad, he never doubted that he would beat cancer.'

When Jordan later relapsed, he would undergo a stem cell transplant. During this time, Jordan wanted to continue his college education at the University of Duluth, so this meant relocating to the Twin Cities for Debbie.

'Although there were days when I needed a good cry, I was sustained by my faith and kept hoping for the best,' says Debbie. 'It was during this time that I really learned that we so often take little things for granted, like being able to wake up in your own bed with your husband and go out to milk the cows. I can honestly say that since then every morning when I'm walking to the barn I say a prayer of thanks for the new day and my family.'

Today, Debbie and her son are active in Make-A-Wish,

