2011

Enacting The Entrepreneurial Nature of AG

Sherry Hoyer

Follow this and additional works at: http://lib.dr.iastate.edu/stories

Recommended Citation
Sherry Hoyer (2011) "Enacting The Entrepreneurial Nature of AG," STORIES in Agriculture and Life Sciences: Vol. 5 : Iss. 1 , Article 18. Available at: http://lib.dr.iastate.edu/stories/vol5/iss1/18

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences at Iowa State University Digital Repository. It has been accepted for inclusion in STORIES in Agriculture and Life Sciences by an authorized editor of Iowa State University Digital Repository. For more information, please contact digirep@iastate.edu.
That 4-H project from 1966? It lives on as Kerns Farms Corp./KK Landrace. Also under Kerns' ownership: KFC Agri-Services (the company he started while an undergraduate); MULTIGENE USA, LLC, a joint venture with Multigene Plus from France; International Boar Semen; and, new in fall 2010, Heirloom Swine Farms, a niche market joint venture producing Berkshire pork for high end chefs and restaurants throughout the country.

“I learned early on in my career to always be looking forward. I’ve tried to be at the forefront of adopting and adapting new technology or the next generation of ideas,” Kerns says. “Attending meetings, serving on a variety of advisory boards for industry and education and networking with people in and out of the swine industry is valuable.”

The Kerns home operation is as multifaceted as his profession. His wife, Becky, and sons Karl, a sophomore in animal science at Iowa State, and Matt, a junior in high school, all are part of the operation. The family has six farms producing five breeds of boars and gilts; 115 row crop and hay acres; 200 acres of pasture for 55 registered Angus cattle; and 200 boars in stud producing semen for fresh and frozen domestic and international sales. He has held numerous leadership positions in the Iowa Pork Producers Association, including president. He also serves on committees on the National Pork Board and National Pork Producers Council. In 2000 he and Becky were honored with the Master Seedstock Producer Award. In honor of his distinguished career, Kerns was inducted into the Iowa State University Animal Science Hall of Fame in 2010.