

The Baumann Family Farm

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The Fourth Generation

In the 1950's, Alfred installed indoor plumbing, a telephone, and a furnace. Also during this time, the windmill was dismantled, as well as the coalhouse and brooder house. The family installed screens on the front porch. The fence surrounding the entire Bauman farm was torn down because there were fewer animals. Alfred and Berniece only had two kids and spoke only English. The daily and yearly routines remained as strenuous until the early 1960's, in which farm chores decreased since cows were the only animals present. The two children, Duane and Diane, were the first members of the Baumann family to attend college as Alfred persuaded them to leave the farm. Alfred realized that large farms were more significant to the American economy. As in Figure [B](#), the average size of

The fourth generation (Duane Baumann and his family) does not live on the farm or even farm the land themselves.



Shown above from the left is Brittany Baumann, Berneice Baumann, Diane Schrock holding her daughter Cellissa, Nancy Baumann, Duane Baumann, Shannon Schrock. At the top rear is Alfred Baumann.

farms greatly increased. In 1970, only about five percent of the labor force were farmers; thus, there were fewer farms and farmers. The future of the Baumann farm seemed uncertain.

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Currently, the farmland's soybeans and corn are farmed by a family friend who farms more than a thousand acres. Tractors, plows, combines are consistently more powerful. Occasionally, the farm has beef cows that graze on the small, one-acre pasture, as shown in below.



The only buildings standing are the farmhouse, barn, garage, and the un-used corncrib and tool and machine shed.

Due to deterioration, the front porch no longer exists on the farmhouse.



Duane's family lives in St. Louis, Missouri, and receives the income from selling the two crops. This generation decided to turn to cash farming and pursue other occupations which would make higher salaries.

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The Baumann generations clearly revealed significant changes in production, landscape, and daily life due to innovation in technology beginning in the Industrial Revolution.

The Baumann farm was completely changed and affected in the beginning of the third generation. The vastly improved production was primarily based on the introduction of new machinery, insecticides, hybrid corn, and chemical fertilizer. Farming also became more individualized with the use of tractors, for farmers no

Daily life was improved by the installation of electricity and plumbing and the installation of grocery stores. These factors of enhanced technology greatly transformed the Baumann farm and the life of each generation. Unfortunately, as technology progressed and improved so consistently and the economy became more dependent on manufacturing, the Baumann farm no longer needed to be occupied. Thus, another farmer cultivates the land.

Alfred died in 1980 and his daughter Diane died in 1992:

longer have to work in groups. The land and farm itself depended first on tile draining and then on the new and improved technology.



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her children Shannon and Steffen live in northern Indiana and Cellissa in Tampa, Florida. Their son, Duane, lives in St. Louis: his children Bridget resides in Scottsdale, Arizona, Rebecca in Orlando, Florida and Brittany as a student in Washington DC. Sadly enough, the Baumann family no longer lives on the farm; only memories remain alive.

The author, Brittany Baumann of the fifth generation, in the spirit of her ancestors.

