

His plans are to be successful

By MARY RUNKLE

Steve Kinnamon, 26, of Savannah, decided to become a farmer when he got laid off from his job. Other deciding factors were that he had a chance to rent land, and after business college, Army Reserves, and working in Ottumwa, he was ready to get back to the farm.

His farming program includes raising Red Angus-Hereford cows—not the usual cross seen in Davis County.

Kinnamon is going into his first year of farming with 550 acres south and east of Mark rented from Dr. Richard Johnson of Des Moines. (The Johnson land is the former Dr. C.D. Fenton farms.) Next year, he will be renting 925 acres that includes four farmsteads.

Kinnamon has fifty cows that are half of the 100 Red Angus-Herefords he and Johnson bought from a ranch in western Nebraska. They are now calving. This fall, there are plans to get another 100 cows. "We'll work up to a herd of 400 within five years and we'll eventually feed calves off those cows," remarked Kinnamon.

"We'll breed Hereford cows to Red Angus bulls until we get a full cow herd of Red Angus-Hereford cross. Once that is done, we'll alternate, using Hereford bulls one year and Red Angus the next," he noted.

About those cows, which he'll care for, he said, "Black White Faces, the Black Angus-Hereford cross are the most popular calves here now but there's not a dime's worth of difference, just color, to the Red Angus-Hereford and the Black Angus-Hereford crossed calves since they grow just the same."

Kinnamon noted that anyone can quickly tell a straight Hereford from a Red Angus-Hereford calf, and he hopes that people here will soon see that.

His 50 cows, a tractor, plow, and disc were what Kinnamon had to borrow money to buy. He notes, "It's the interest payments at the end of the year that bothers me, not the challenge and farm work."

Most of the rented land will be in pasture and hay for cattle raising, except for 200 acres of corn this year.

Kinnamon and his wife, Vicki, live in a house they bought along with two acres from his father's farm in the south edge of Savannah. His parents are Mr. and Mrs. Charles Kinnamon.

Steve and Vicki Kinnamon have a daughter, Shannon, 10 and one-half months. Vicki works as receptionist in Ottumwa for Drs. Donovan and Roush. Her mother-in-law and Helen Bissel keep Shannon.

At his home in Savannah, Kinnamon has six sows for pigging that are all his.

At the Johnson farms he's renting, there will be seven to eight miles of fence replaced. All old buildings are coming down. There will be terraces and two ponds built, besides 39 acres of pasture renovated. There are plans to build a big machine shed with a work shop in one end.

After the fences and building improvements are made, Kinnamon will be responsible for maintaining them.

He commented, "I couldn't possibly go out and buy land to start up farming and make it pay because land and machinery and supplies are so high, while cattle and hog prices haven't changed much."

He added that it's different for young men who get the right opportunity to start farming. He says he was lucky enough that the right opportunity came along, and he took it.

"I'm going to try farming and I'm planning on succeeding at it," he said.



Vicki, Shannon and Steve Kinnamon

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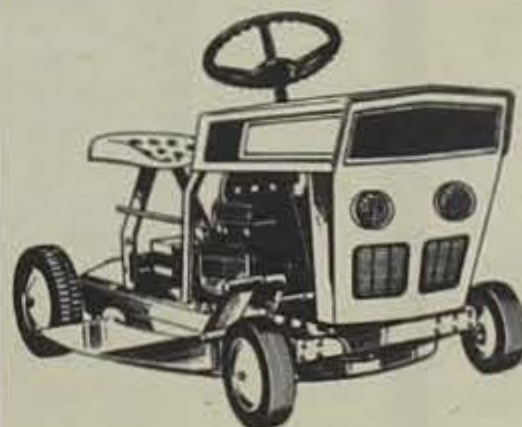


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