

OFHS



WALL OF FAME

Inducted September 22, 2018



WILLIAM (BILL) DELZER

As a farmer, father, and friend to many, Bill Delzer has been an intricate part of the Oconto Falls Community. He started his Oconto Falls High School career in 1950, where he was active in athletics as a member of the football and track teams, and in extracurricular and co-curricular activities, including Ag Ball and FFA. Bill was also voted onto the 1953 OFHS Prom Court.

After graduation in 1954, Bill took night classes in agriculture and purchased the family farm from his parents. He started with a few cows, using milk cans and a threshing machine. Over the next 50 plus years that he farmed, Bill made many improvements, from purchasing more acreage and new machinery, to building all new structures. In 1986, he received the Century Farm award on the 100-year anniversary of the establishment of Hardwood Farms. Bill has been well-known for making maple syrup, as well as growing and selling potatoes. He has hosted the Oconto County Breakfast on the Farm, served as a 4-H leader for the community, and is very active at his church, serving on numerous boards and committees.

Bill's countless achievements were made possible with the help of his wife of 59 years, Donna (Genke). They were married in June of 1959, and together, farmed and raised a family of five children—Gerri, Brent, Jay, Jill and Joel—all of whom are graduates of Oconto Falls High School, 19 grandchildren, and 7 great-grandchildren. Bill has been proud to watch his sons and grandsons play football for his alma mater.

While two of their children have taken over the farm, Bill and Donna can be found helping whenever needed. This is especially true every fall when they host a pumpkin festival, known as "Delzer's Pumpkin Farm." Thousands of people attend each year, and the entire Delzer family pitches in to make it special for each family that visits.

In 1998, Bill and his wife, Donna, retired to Cecil, Wisconsin, where they bought a home on Shawano Lake. While they enjoy the lakeside living, they still miss living on their farm where so many happy memories were made. Bill especially enjoys hunting and fishing with his family, including many trips across the United States, Canada, and even as far as Africa.

Bill has lived by this motto: "Learn what you can, and no one can take it away from you."