

Illinois Farmer Today^S

Vol. 9, No. 38

Copyright 2022

www.illinoisfarmertoday.com

October 1, 2022

Inside

Family FARMERS

Illinois Farm Families, a coalition of many of the state's commodity groups, dispels common misconceptions

Page 5

Game NIGHT

High school football games in rural districts bring communities together during harvest time

Page 13

WISHING
YOU A
SAFE AND
SUCCESSFUL
HARVEST.



PORK leaders

IFT photo by Phyllis Coulter

Darrell and Laurie Stitzel stand in front of a pig barn on their farm in Carroll County in northwestern Illinois. They market 10,000 pigs a year from their wean-to-finish farm and were named the 2022 Illinois Pork Producer Farm Family of the Year.

Illinois pig farmers promote pork, family traditions

By Phyllis Coulter

Illinois Farmer Today

SHANNON, Ill. — Darrell Stitzel's grandparents moved to a farm in Carroll County in northwestern Illinois 65 years ago. His wife Laurie's father started his career as a tenant farmer in South Dakota. Together, the couple has grown a thriving pork business while also being active in their community.

They were recognized this year at the Illinois State Fair as the 2022 Illinois Pork Producer Farm Family of the Year.

"I was happy to see Darrell recognized for his hard work and dedication to pork producers and am very proud of him," Laurie said.

Darrell helped on the farm as a teenager, but he said he was in college earning his degree in agricultural economics at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign when he started "to appreciate the idea of farming full-time."

Today, Stitzel Hog Farm markets 10,000 pigs from their wean-to-finish hog farm and grow 450 acres of corn.

"The corn is mostly for the hogs," Darrell said.

The evolution of the farm and its buildings is proudly captured in a couple of aerial photos of the farm hanging in their home office.

See page 4: **Promote** ►