

# Shaffers Farming

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animal people. They can tell you which cow is the daughter of whom and when they were bred. I just look at them and wonder how they remember all that."

John III does do all of the artificial breeding and has been doing so for the past twenty years.

"Jake was going to go to school to get a degree but, at the last minute, decided he really could not leave the farm," John said.

"He's like my brother and I were. He has always loved being at the barn."

The Shaffers feel that technology has been the biggest aid in recent years in farming.

"For instance, the cell phone is a great boon," John said. "We used to not be able to get in touch with each other all day. Now, everyone is just a phone call away. I don't know how we operated without them."

"We also rely heavily on the computer. Jeff does most of that work. He keeps records on all of the cattle and, once a month, we do a cattle check. The computer makes that and keeping track of breeding, etc., an easy job."

John's mom does all of the farm bookkeeping.

Like many farmers, John is an optimist. He believes the price of milk will go up and he is looking forward to a good growing season this year.

"We were able to get some of our corn in," he said about a month ago. "It is already up." They have also planted barley and alfalfa and expect it will do well.

"We all love living here. I doubt if we will ever leave," John said.



John Shaffer III climbs into one of the farm's big tractors. A new one will arrive soon.



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