

## February 1st, 2022 - Farmers Hands Tell Stories

Agriculture to me is the definition of hard work and determination. Farmers spend their days working diligently to feed the world. How do you measure how much hard work farmers do? I was always told from a young age if you wanted to know just how hard a farmer works just look at their hands.

When I look at a farmer's hand there is a lot you see. For starters, they are usually covered in something; whether it's dirt from the fields, grease from equipment, corn dust from checking the bins, or possibly even covered in manure from working cattle. Those hands are never completely clean no matter how hard they scrub.

When I look at their hands however, I do not see rough, cracked, and calloused covered hands, I see a story. Their hands tell the detailed story. They are the first hands to feel the hearts of a newborn baby calf. Their hands have been freezing multiple times, year after year, from cruel winters as they break ice from frozen waters, so their livestock can drink. They have gripped tractor steering wheels for hours as they make countless trips across fields. Their hands are not only just working hard on the farm, those same exact hands have also held and raised their own kids. Those hands are the ones that are first in line to give me a high five and hug after a huge accomplishment. Those hands give and give and give. They work tirelessly to not only to feed a family, but they also help feed the world!

Those hands may not be manicured or pretty by any means, but they tell a terrific story. They tell a story of hard work and determination. Even when a bad day strikes; the tractor breaks down, the waters freeze, a hailstorm flattens rows of corn, those hands continue to work diligently to provide for his family and the world. On those bad days, those hands continue to love. Those hands are strong yet gentle when needed. They are full of tenderness, compassion, grace, mercy, and love. A lot can be told by a farmer's hands. I hope to one day have a pair of hands that tell as amazing of a story as the hands of a farmer. ~ Kesley Holdgrafer