

“GRANDMA’S CORN”

Our Sweetcorn is what I like to refer to as ‘Grandma’s Corn’ in honour of my late Grandmother Norah Bauer.

In 1885 my great-grandparents took up a ‘settlement’ at Mt Sylvia, which I am very proud to still farm today (my grandchildren are 6th generation Bauer’s on this farm). The property has grown somewhat, from the original 100 acres to approx 350 acres today. Of course in the early days crops were grown organically, just like we have again now for the past 35 years!!



HENRY AND HONORIA (NORAH) BAUER.



My grandparents, like others in the area, grew corn and picked it by hand hot work considering sweet corn is grown through the summer, grows quite tall and, in those days, was picked by hand loading the cobs onto a horse-drawn German wagon. Most of the corn these days is picked by machine, but we still do a certain amount by hand.

I can always remember Grandma saying that picking corn with her horse was her “relaxation”. She reckoned it was relaxing compared to milking a herd of cows by hand twice a day, rearing a dozen kids, and carting water from Blackfellow creek in buckets for household use.

The corn grown years ago was more starchy and grown mainly for animal feed, referred to today as Maize. Selective breeding over many years now means we can enjoy new super-sweet varieties of sweet corn..

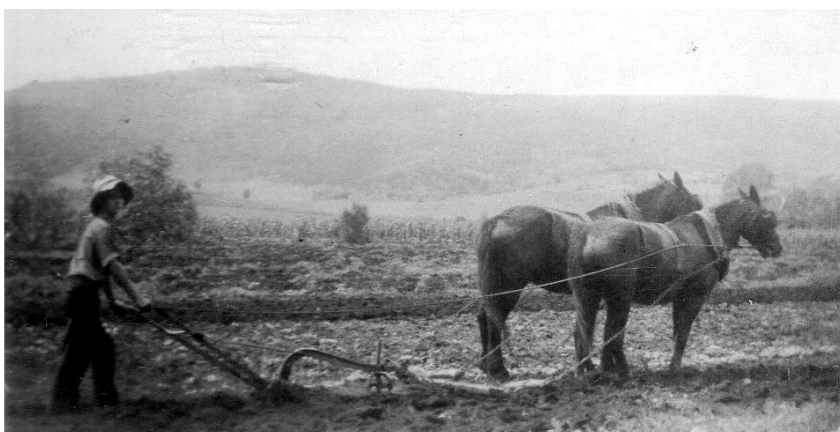
These days we take great pride in the wonderful sweet flavour of our organic corn. It's grown in some of the best soil in the world, as the Lockyer Valley is in the top 10 most fertile farming areas in the world.

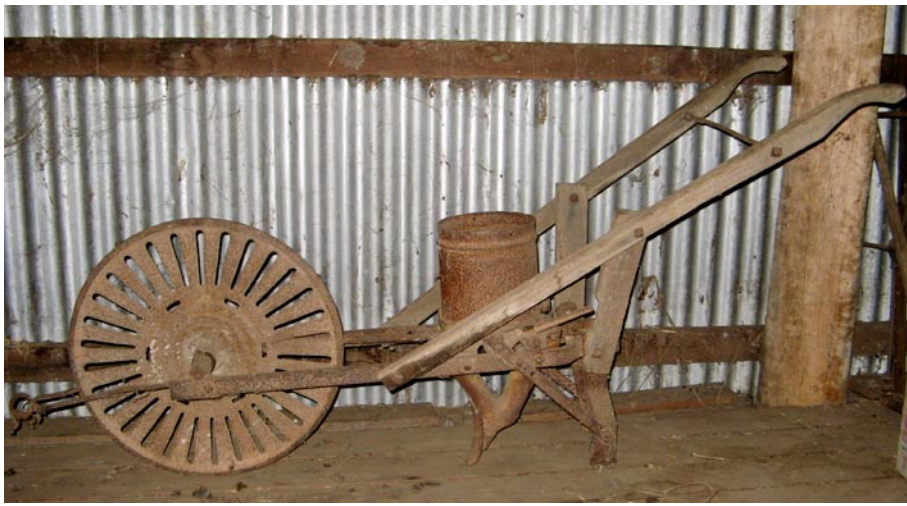
Visitors to the farm are often treated to a cob of raw corn picked fresh from the stalk. If you have never tasted it raw then give it a go. If it's fresh it will literally dribble down your chin. The photo on the right shows Kaye Nunan, leader of the QDPI&F's Gourmet Food Project, about to partake !!



Below left: My Dad hard at work ploughing the corn field with his horses.

Below right: Some of our luscious certified organic SWEET corn that we grow today.





Above and right: Grandma & Grandad's corn planters today housed in the farm museum. The one above is the horse-drawn version, while the ones on the right are called "walking stick planters". The photos below shows our current planter at work and the subsequent results.



Below left: Kyle Kwong enjoyed a visit to our corn paddock.



Next time you tuck into a delicious cob of corn, just think of all the Grandma's who pioneered this country, and found hand-picking corn relaxing !!

Above: A photo of our beautiful valley where we grow our sweet-corn, potatoes, and other crops.

