

## **Cypress County**

Flat Valley Farm  
Gene & Pam Ehret  
Hilda, Alberta

Gene and Pam Ehret were married in the fall of 1983. Both were born and raised in the Hilda community and still live there today. Their great grandparents came to this country as young married couples from Bessarabia in 1910 and 1911 to homestead in the Hilda District. Gene and Pam's grandparents were born and raised here, making it five generations of Ehret family helping to develop the Hilda community. In the Ehret children's family tree, all of their ancestors, back to great-great grandparents, have made their living farming and ranching within a fifteen-mile radius of the Ehret's farm.

All three children have been/are members of the Borderline 4-H Multi Club and have participated in District, Regional and Provincial aspects of the program. Both Gene and Pam have been directors of the local community association. Gene is also a BT Grazing Co-op board member and volunteers as one of the drivers for Burstall Youth Memorial Inc. Gene and Gina went on a Mexico Missions Trip with the Burstall Evangelical Church for the first time in 1999, to Tijuana. Gene hasn't missed a trip since. Gina went for four years and Jamie has participated for the last three years. The entire family is involved every year with fundraising for the Mexico Missions trip. Gene also drives the BYMI coach for hockey teams, school and 4-H groups.

Pam is actively involved with the Cactus Country 4-H District Council and continues to be a leader in the local Borderline 4-H Multi Club. Besides being involved with the Community Association, the local church and school, she finds time to garden.

Gina was born in 1984, attended Schuler School for nine years, graduated from Medicine Hat High School in 2002 and is living in Lethbridge pursuing a Bachelor of Nursing degree. Besides her studies, she participates in the Lethbridge 4-H Alumni, plays University floor hockey and enjoys socializing. She travels home weekends, holidays and during the summer break to help out on the farm where needed.

Gina was blessed with a little brother, Jamie in 1986. Jamie attended ten years of school in Schuler and will graduate from Burstall High school in June. He plans on taking a carpentry apprenticeship program after taking some time off from school. Presently he is the President of the 4-H club and a member of the high school Student Council. Jamie is a real asset to the farming operation, taking on more responsibility each year. He will be missed while he is off to post secondary school.

Monty, the Ehret's youngest son, was born in the spring of 1992. He is in grade six at Schuler School. He is a Beef and Pheasant 4-H project member this year. Monty is becoming very helpful around the farm; many days we await his arrival from school to lend a hand.

The present operation is a mixed farm which consists of a commercial cow herd and cultivated land used to raise their own feed as well as cereal grain to market. All family members pitch in to get the work done.

Being involved with the community is not a difficult task. The Ehret's enjoy belonging to the community working with terrific people and maintaining a place they can continue to be proud of.