

Landowner Spotlight

Leona V. Neu was born, twelve miles east of Ashley on May 7, 1925 to Jacob and Marie Woeszner. She attended country school until age thirteen, graduating the eighth grade. After graduation, she worked on the family farm and babysat for neighborhood families.

On October 29, 1944 she was united in marriage to Herbert Neu. They made their home on the Neu farmstead one mile west and one mile north of Ashley.

Leona and Herbert worked together to make their farm successful. Their farm operation was diverse, raising beef cattle and chickens, milking cows, and growing wheat and other small grains. Along with raising a family, Leona was active as church financial secretary for nearly twenty years, a church council member, and a member of the district executive board of church women.

In 1967, Herbert and Leona moved into a new home built by Leona's father, Jacob, in Ashley. Their son Jarrold and wife Karen, moved onto the farm.

Leona was a member of Sunshine Homemakers club for 45 years and was the recipient of the first State Heart award. She also baked and decorated cakes, making her first wedding cake in October of 1960. She made approximately 140 wedding cakes, delivering as far as Moorhead, MN. Leona made her last wedding cake for her grandson, Daniel, in 1995. She also made many birthday and anniversary cakes during this time, delivering one as far as Wichita, KS for her sister-in-law.