

AG PEN PAL PROGRAM!

SAMPLE LETTER

By Ag Pen Pals: Bruce & Karen Grant

Hometown: Meadow Grove, NE

Type of Farmer: Farrow to finish hog farm, corn, soybeans, alfalfa

Dear Ag Pen Pals:

Hello! I will be your Ag Pen Pal for the year. I am so excited to be your Pen Pal. I hope you learn where your food comes from. I hope you learn about animals, what a farmer does daily on the farm, and about the equipment farmers use. I also hope I learn a lot from each of you.

My name is Karen Grant. I live by Meadow Grove. It is in northeast Nebraska. I am married to Bruce. We have adult children. Jason and his wife Megan have Simon, age 4 and Ryan, age 8 months. Simon loves to visit our farm, sit on the tractors, see the pigs, and have lunch with us in the fields of corn or soybeans. We also have a daughter Kristen. She is married to Randy and they raise cows and calves (cow is a mom and calf is the baby she has). We also have a son Jeremy. He farms with Bruce and me. His wife helps on the farm. They have two boys, Luke and Darren. The boys are 3 months old. I will share pictures of them in my next letter. Bruce's father, Richard, also farms with us.

We are proud to have three generations farming together. Here are Jeremy, Richard, and Bruce by the combine we use to harvest soybeans (the combine cuts the soybean plant off at the ground and sorts the soybean seed which we put in the semi-truck and haul to town to sell.) We harvest soybeans in September if the weather is nice. Soybeans are used to make soybean meal to feed to pigs and fish. Dry distilled grain is used to feed cattle. Soybeans are also used to make bio diesel to run tractors. Soy oil is used for cooking and lubricating, soy nuts are good to eat. Soy burgers and tofu come from soybeans.



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Below is a photo of the combine harvesting corn. The corn is being augured into the grain cart. The tractor and grain cart will haul the corn to the semi-truck that is at the edge of the field.



When the semi-truck is full Jeremy, Rich, or Bruce will drive it to the farm site to a bin where it will be stored until they have more time to haul it to a great big bin at the local cooperative. We harvest corn in October and November. Corn can also be chopped for corn silage to feed to cattle (cattle means many cows and calves.)

By-products are uses of a product. Corn is used for feeding cattle, pigs, and fish. Corn is used to make gasohol to run cars and pickups, Corn is also used to make plastic bottles and plastic bags, corn syrup, and corn chips. There is yellow corn, white corn, and popcorn.

Bruce and I also raise alfalfa. We windrow (harvest or cut the crop) alfalfa four times a year if we get nice rains to help the alfalfa grow. We can roll alfalfa into round bales, square bales, or chop it for silage. Alfalfa is used to feed cattle and horses over the long winter months.

Bruce and I have a farrow to finish pig farm. Farrow is when the sow (mom pig) has baby piglets. We raise the pigs to 290 pounds in six months. I will tell you about our pigs in my next letter.



I am anxious to hear about you. What is your favorite food to eat? Have you ever been to a farm?

Sincerely,

Your Ag Pen Pals
Bruce and Karen Grant