



FARGO-MOORHEAD AREA FOUNDATION

www.areafoundation.org

Patrick Benedict Memorial Scholarship Fund

Patrick Benedict: US Farmer

When Pat Benedict was killed in an accident in April, 2010, it was a great loss; to his family, to his many friends, and to the thousands of sugarbeet and corn growers of the region.

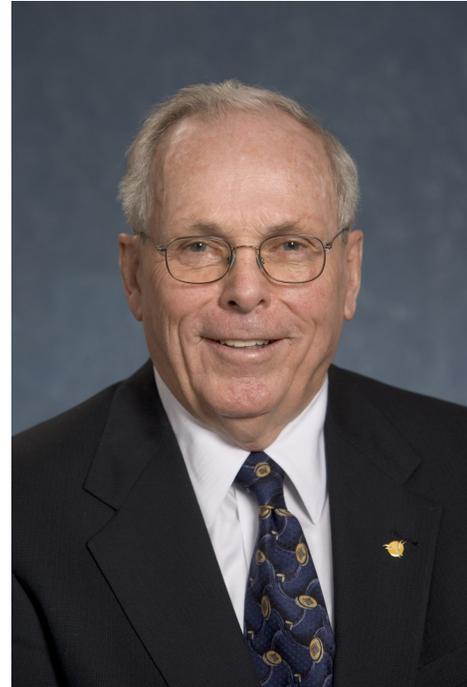
Benedict appeared on the cover of Time Magazine in 1978, as “The New US Farmer.” He was the model for the changing nature of agriculture at that time and a model for the next generation of farmers.

Thirty years later, he was asked what he would tell readers of Time Magazine. He sighed, when he responded, “The American public has lost touch with agriculture, but for the wrong reasons. The vast majority of us are family farmers, working 18-hour days, struggling to turn a profit and keep food on the table. Even so, we’re better stewards of the land today than we’ve ever been in the past.”

Mark Dillon went to work for American Crystal Sugar during the peak of the sugarbeet harvest in 1985. He made an appointment to meet Pat Benedict, Board Chair of the co-op, and found him combining corn, rather than harvesting his sugarbeets. When Dillon asked why, Benedict replied, “I just really love corn...always have.”

Benedict went on to say, “It’s my dream that someday every crop on my farm will be processed by a value-added cooperative like American Crystal Sugar.”

This statement was made by a man who had been one of the founding board members of the American



Crystal Sugar Cooperative; one of those growers instrumental in acquiring the publicly traded, Denver based company and transforming it into the locally owned grower cooperative, American Crystal Sugar.

David Berg, President and CEO of American Crystal Sugar summed it up. “You’d have to have a calculator with a lot of zeroes on it to figure out how much money he helped our farmers, our shareholders, make.”

In 1993, Benedict and other corn growers created Golden Growers Cooperative. He was a founding board member of the organization and served on the board until his term expired in March, 2010.

A Navy veteran, Benedict also was widely involved in the community.

Vision

Pat Benedict had a vision for Agriculture. It was a vision he pursued throughout his life. In Pat's words, ***"It's my dream that someday every crop on my farm will be processed by a value-added cooperative."***

Serving Country, Agriculture, and Community

Pat Benedict served his country in the military. Returning home to the farm, he focused his energy on his family, the family farm, and his community.

- Navy veteran
- Founding board members of the American Crystal Sugar Cooperative
- Founder, Northern Grain Co. Elevator, Dilworth, MN
- Founding Member and Board Chair Golden Growers Cooperative
- Chairman of ProGold, LLC
- Community First Bankshares Board of Directors from 1992 to 2001
- Chairman, MeritCare Hospital Board of Trustees
- Moorhead State University Foundation Board
- Neuropsychiatric Research Institute of Fargo, Board of Directors

Pat Benedict's Impact

Pat Benedict's impact extended far beyond sugarbeet and corn processing. Pat was a highly sought after individual founding several organizations serving on countless Boards. Pat helped make every organization stronger, more visionary, and productive.

The Scholarship

To honor Pat Benedict, Golden Growers Cooperative initiated the Patrick Benedict Memorial Scholarship Fund at the FM Area Foundation. The fund will provide **scholarships for students with a farm background to attend North Dakota State University.**

"Perhaps assistance from the Pat Benedict scholarship fund will make the difference for a visionary entrepreneur who will have a 'Pat Benedict' type impact on our community. Nothing would be more fitting," stated Jason Medhaug, Golden Growers Chairman.

Supporting the Scholarship Fund

Your tax deductible contribution can impact the life on a NDSU student in the same way Pat Benedict impacted our community. Contributions are accepted:

- **By sending a check by mail to the:**

**"Patrick Benedict Scholarship Fund"
c/o Fargo-Moorhead Area Foundation
502 1st Avenue North Suite 202
Fargo, ND 58102**

- **Securely online at www.areafoundation.org:**

**Click the "Give Online" tab
Select "Patrick Benedict Scholarship Fund" in the drop down menu
Follow instructions to pay electronically**

By contributing to the **Pat Benedict Memorial Scholarship Fund**, you will be helping a deserving student live his or her dream – a dream with tremendous possibilities.