

Labors 14 years

After 14 years of work, the Bogacz' bought the S. L. Moore 160 acre place near Pavillion in 1951.

Three years later they bought another Midvale unit, the 120 acre Bill Gies farm, and diversified their operation. They raised potatoes and processed them for market. The family managed a flock of 400 laying hens.

They have 50 black Angus cows plus 700 ewes.

This year's crops included sugar beets, hay and grain. His spread included a lease on 900 acres of marginal land on the south side of Ocean Lake, providing cheap livestock pasture.

Leases in Third Division

When Third Division places were put up for lease, Bogacz bid on the Alex Weitzel place.

"I raised 22 acres of beets out there and they made 13 tons to the acre—better than many did in Missouri Valley with the bad year," Bogacz said. An early September snow and freeze cut yields in 1965.

On his Third Division lands barley went 110 bushels to the acre; his hay made three tons to the acre.

He is wintering his Angus cows on pasture on the leased unit.

Bogacz has leased another 320 acres from H. E. Lang, a good part of it sub-irrigated, making quite a spread to care for.

But take care of it he does, with help from a hard-working wife and the family's five children.

Have Five Daughters

Boys? No, all girls, ranging from Lynette, a freshman in junior college, to DeAnna, 16, who's the top farmhand, down through Rebecca, 12, Ladonna, 11, and Kendra, 5.

The family lived five years in an old 5-room house, the cracks in the walls stuffed with paper and no running water. When the Bureau sold houses from the construction camp, Bogacz bought one, moved it on a full basement, modernized it with running water, re-wired, painted and repaired. The place is now one of the neatest in the valley.

The Bogacz formula for success: work hard, buy land right, study, profit from experience, fertilize to increase yields, hold down capital costs with sensible machinery purchases.

Bogacz has done his share of community service. He has served on the Pavillion school board, was ASC committeeman for four years, is serving his second year on the Midvale board. Last fall he was elected state director for the Upper Missouri River Basin Association.

Over the years, Bogacz has built six miles of sheep tight fences, leveled 40 acres of ground for better irrigation, put in 4,000 feet of concrete lined main laterals.

Sees the Problem

He still needs 1500 feet of tile drain. And the Pavillion main lateral continues to seep into Bogacz property and should be lined.

Bogacz believes in the Midvale project and has ideas on what it needs to survive and prosper.

He helped develop the sand pump to fight against silting in the Wyoming canal.

"We have to fight silt nine feet deep in the canal because Diversion Dam is silted full," Bogacz said. He mentions other immediate needs—the chute at Pilot Reservoir, the erosion along Five Mile Creek and the Ocean Drain.

And he has ideas for the future, such as, building a canal out of Ocean Lake from which water could be pumped to good lands above the ditch when the land is needed.

Need Unified Control

"A single administration is the only way to operate the project," Bogacz believes. There never should have been a small single area like Third Division. There's a need for unified control.

Ed Bogacz is a man who uses his labor as capital. His story has a Horatio Alger quality—farmhand to farm owner, a story repeated many times across Midvale Irrigation District by farmers who through sweat, toil and determination have built the country.