

## **Jim Halford 1963 College**

Jim grew up on the family farm south of Indian Head where he attended school. After graduating from the College of Agriculture at the U of S, he obtained a Master of Science degree in Agricultural Economics in 1966 under Hadley Van Vliet. In 1976, he studied agriculture in the United Kingdom as a Nuffield Scholar focusing on alternative land tenure options. He did further work in this subject area in the 1980's for the Agriculture Institute of Canada, Sask. Agriculture, and the Sask. Indian Agriculture program.

Jim had started farming while attending the U of S. This continued after graduation and, during 13 winters, the farming habit was initially supported by working as a Farm Management Specialist for the Saskatchewan Department of Agriculture, followed by some private consulting.

In 1979, Jim decided that "Vale Farm" (which his grandfather homesteaded in 1890) needed to be farmed in a different way. He started Zero Tilling with a disc drill but soon learned that this was not the answer on his rolling, hilly, stony Oxbow Loam soil.

In 1983, the double-knife system of fertilizing, seeding and packing ... using a double shoot air delivery ... was initiated. This Conserva Pak™ Seeder led to a business of ongoing design, testing, manufacturing and marketing. Sales started in Western Canada in 1989, then northern USA, and Australia in 1993. In 2007, the Conserva Pak technology (including 25 patents), trademarks and design were sold to Deere and Company. The 1870 Conserva Pak is the main seeder that John Deere sells today in Western Canada.

Jim has been recognized in a variety of ways.

1986 – Distinguished Graduate, College of Agriculture

1994 – Sk. Institute of Agrologists Distinguished Agrologist

1997 – Manning Foundation Innovation Award

1990 – 2004 – recognized by three farmer-directed Western Canadian conservation organizations

2000 – inducted into the Canadian Conservation Hall of fame

2010 – inducted into the Saskatchewan Agriculture Hall of Fame

2013 - nominated for the Oslo Business for Peace Award by the Greater Saskatoon Chamber of Commerce

Jim's three children (Grant, Beth, and Chris) were all involved in the Conserva Pak business at different times.

Jim and his wife, Dayle Bowman, continue to reside in Indian Head ... not too far from the farm! They have a total of 5 children and 6 grandchildren.