



Paul Bickford

July 17, 1953 - August 23, 2022

Ridgeway - Paul Bickford, age 69, of Ridgeway, WI, a beloved friend and mentor to many, died in a farm accident on Tuesday, August 23, 2022.

Paul was an innovative organic farmer, a generous teacher, and a kind-hearted friend to countless people across generations and geographies. He began farming with his father Melvin in Sauk County before building the Bickford Farms dairy in Ridgeway in 1978. Paul and his family converted their dairy operations from confinement to grazing 1992, becoming pioneers and advocates for that movement. In the last decade, Paul transitioned to organic grain farming and mentorship, bringing on John and Halee Wepking as partners to ensure the farm's succession and bring new life to its operations as Meadowlark Organics and Community Mill

Paul was a tireless advocate for organic farming and fostering the next generation of farmers, serving on Wisconsin's Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection's Organic Advisory Council and on the USDA Advisory Committee on Beginning Farmers and Ranchers. His contributions have been many and his legacy is already living on.

Paul's passing is felt deeply by all who knew him. He was preceded in death by his parents Melvin and Loretta and son Greg.

He is survived by: his son Levi, daughter Olivia, stepson Lance and their mother Cyd, daughter Michelle; 6 grandchildren; partner Nan Fey; siblings Carol, John, Jim and Bev; business partners/farm family, John and Halee Wepking, and all the Meadowlark Organics team.

A Celebration of Paul's Life and Legacy will be held on Sunday, September 25, 2022, at 2:00 p.m. at WHITE OAKS SAVANNAH, 4352 Hwy 23, Dodgeville, WI 53533.

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

SEP **25.** 2:00 PM (CT)

White Oaks Savannah
4352 Highway 23
Dodgeville, WI 53533

Tribute Wall



“ *Paul Bickford*

November 15, 2022 at 06:49 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Paul Bickford.*



September 23, 2022 at 05:55 PM



“ *Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet was purchased for the family of Paul Bickford.*



September 13, 2022 at 02:54 PM



“ *Lovely One Spathiphyllum Plant was purchased for the family of Paul Bickford.*



September 12, 2022 at 06:24 PM

AT

“ I knew the first time I met Paul that he was an amazing guy. I really liked him. I was going through a hard time recently and because it was St. Patrick’s Day he made me a grasshopper-it was waaaay too strong lol So he kept adding more green food coloring and I said “this is not helping”, but he claimed it was delicious 🍴 Just a silly memory, but nice because I had said I always wanted to try a grasshopper ❤️ He will be missed.

Athena - September 08, 2022 at 08:18 AM

DD

“ I remember going to work at the farm with my step dad Joe back in the early 80s. Some of my best memories were there. Everytime I come home and go past I yell and send a wave hello. Will definitely hit different now.

Denise Dalberg - August 31, 2022 at 11:40 PM



“ Dad was a wonderful father and best friend I miss him dearly I will always cherish my memories of dad

Levi Bickford - August 30, 2022 at 07:01 AM

HB

Hi Levi, as a student of Agriculture from Germany in 1992 I must have met you while doing an internship on Paul’s Farm in Summer 1992. Paul and his family welcomed me as an intern and integrated me in his family. I am very thankful for that. Today, at age 58, I run a farm on my own and understand much better the travails Paul went through, most notably doing a farm transfer to outside of one own family. I always like Paul. May he be in good company where he is now.

Horst Bodmer
from a mid-sized Farm in central Germany close to Heidelberg.
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Horst Bodmer - March 12 at 06:00 PM