

Why We Work

Work by definition is the exertion or effort directed to produce or accomplish something; to labor or toil. This definition leaves out a larger part of what work means to locals in Sherman County. Working, of course, enables the lifestyles of residents. It provides for living and taking care of families, and it allows for hobbies and passions. From a calling to serve others, working because it is genuinely enjoyed, to providing income, work is a part of the bigger picture of our lives in Sherman County. A better definition of work includes the pride and identity that work provides.

Agriculture is the dominant industry in Sherman County, but farm jobs are accompanied by the typical mix of teachers, health caregivers, lawyers, small business owners, and bankers among others. All the different occupations work together to create our community. The motivations for working are many, but the end result is a dynamic environment made of people with particular skill sets, each with something unique to offer that lends to a solid community.

Work doesn't leave us; a "retired" farmer can't help but rise with the sun and listen to the local KLOE AM radio station with Curtis Duncan. Many hours are spent drinking coffee at the local CO-OP or McDonald's discussing weather predictions debating on if there will be another frost. Because work is more than just "work" to locals, it continues to a part of their lives long after they "retire" (that is, if they do retire). Retired teachers are just as guilty; the passion for education doesn't leave and it takes different forms. Part time substitution, helping out at church, participating in active community groups are common places to find retired teachers.

Are you retired? What habits do you maintain in your retirement? If you are not retired, what would *you do* when you retire? Tell us!