



FARMLAND INFORMATION CENTER

NORM BERG COLLECTION

DOUGLAS P. WHEELER
AMERICAN FARMLAND TRUST BOARD MEMBER

It's hard to believe, looking back, that we've known each other for more than 25 years, all of them spent working together in support of AFT. It is even more remarkable that your "second" career began at the end of a distinguished tour at the Soil Conservation Service, when most people would have been content to settle into comfortable retirement.

In fact, when it became apparent in 1981 that you might be available to become a Senior Advisor, I was incredulous that you would have the energy and interest sufficient to sustain regular involvement with our fledgling organization. Wisely, as it turns out, I deferred to the judgment of Peggy Rockefeller, Pat Noonan, Ralph Grossi and Bob Gray, who urged that we enlist you to help shape the early programs of AFT and help us to understand that vagaries of federal agriculture policy. And, at age 89, you continue to be our most trusted and beloved member of senior staff.

You are truly an inspiration to Heather and me, not least of all because you've managed so well to combine an extraordinary professional life with devotion to family and friends. We share fond memories of visits with you and Ruth, and relish your warm accounts of an ever-expanding family which now includes grandchildren and great-grandchildren. We treasure your friendship, Norm, and look forward to being there when you celebrate your 90th birthday!