

Get Your Fill at The Mill

The Feed Mill Restaurant, that is, run by farm folks who know a thing or two about quality food.

WHEN YOU STOP at this issue's featured ma-and-pa diner in Audubon, don't let the sprawling 16-acre truck stop where it's located fool you.



"You're doing business with an honest-to-goodness Iowa farm family here at The Feed Mill Restaurant, not corporate America," relates Chief Operating Officer Beth Handlos Wahlert.

Don't let Beth's fancy job title fool you either. You can tell by her pleasant down-home nature that she's an Iowa farm girl at heart who sees to her customers' needs.

Beth's the daughter of Lawrence and Doris (Quandt) Handlos, owners of the restaurant and its home, Waspy's Truck Stop. Lawrence is known by the nickname "Waspy" in these parts.

"The Feed Mill Restaurant is family-owned and operated, and we take great pride in that," Beth continues. "My parents are farmers, and they developed the businesses here to give back to the community and to fill a need for our farming operation."

They Farm in the County

The Handlos family grows corn and has a hog operation in Audubon and surrounding counties. The development of the Waspy's site on Highway 71 on the south edge of town began simply enough when they built a truck wash to appropriately clean hog semis, feed trucks and farm equipment.

"With enough land on hand, Dad and Mom saw an opportunity to enhance other amenities for Audubon residents and for truckers and travelers who come through the area," Beth states.

"Today, the truck stop is not only home to our restaurant but to Two Palms Grilling and Catering, Blue Grass Inn & Suites, Audubon Diesel, Waspy's Tire and Service Center and the original Waspy's Truck Wash."

The Feed Mill Restaurant opened in 2018. Its moniker is a natural fit for Audubon County, long known for its quality hog and cattle production.

"Our goal is to serve hearty meals that will satisfy any taste and appetite, the kind of basic comfort food Iowans enjoy," Beth

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explains. "The farmers in this area raise excellent beef and pork. That's what we aim to serve at The Feed Mill—only the best.

"Diners love our savory prime rib, steaks and pork chops; we also offer great seafood like jumbo shrimp and red snapper. Of course, there's traditional Iowa fare, too, like breaded hand-cut tenderloins, hand-breaded broasted chicken and juicy half-pound burgers. Plus, there are many tasty sides to choose from."



LET'S MEET THE HANDLOS FAMILY...from left are son Brian and wife Pat; parents Lawrence and Doris; and daughter Beth Handlos Wahlert.

For a little snack before your entree arrives, you might try the chicken wings, homemade onion rings, loaded potato wedges or cheese curds. There's also a menu just for kids.

Always a Good Time for Breakfast

Breakfast is served all day. The cooks will rustle up just about any plate you remember Mom putting on the table. An extensive a la carte menu lets you build the breakfast of your choice.

The Feed Mill Restaurant is located at 2079 Highway 71 in the Waspy's Truck Stop complex just south of Audubon. It's open 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Wednesday and Thursday, and 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Friday and Saturday.

A full menu and additional information can be found at waspystruckstop.com and on Facebook. You can reach the restaurant by phone at 712/563-5406.

Along with Beth, her brother, Brian, tends to the family businesses while continuing to farm. He and his wife, Pat, run the catering service; Brian is also quick to step up to The Feed Mill grill as needed.

"My parents are both in their 80s, but you know farmers, they never really retire," Beth chuckles. "You'll find them here or at

the farm. I feel blessed every day to work by their side.

"People often ask why we didn't build this complex 12 miles south of here on I-80 for more visibility, and the answer is simple: My folks wanted to invest in this community."

Beth shares that patrons from Audubon and the surrounding area—along with over-the-road truckers—do a wonderful job getting a kind word out about The Feed Mill.

"This is a dream job for me. It's special to be around family at the restaurant. I love working with my team."



THIS FAVORITE AT THE FEED MILL is found on Iowa Pork Producers' "Tenderloin Trail".

WHERE'S THE BEST PLACE TO EAT? You can't beat quaint Ma & Pa restaurants for "You're sure to want seconds" food, and service as warm as the homemade bread. If you have one to recommend, please tell us about it.

Write to: "My Favorite Ma & Pa Restaurant", *Our Iowa*, 1510 Buckeye Ave., Ames IA 50010. Or send an email to: editors@OurIowaMagazine.com and put "Ma & Pa Restaurants" in the subject line. Include photos if available.