

TRANSCRIPT: NICK BAMERT INTERVIEW

Mr. Nick Bamert · President of Bamert Seed Company.

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An interview with Mr. Nick Bamert, President of Bamert Seed Company. Bamert is a Class of 1981 Agricultural Economics graduate from Texas A&M and an inducted member of the Tyrus R. Timm Honor Registry.

This video was posted May 16, 2019 on the Tyrus R. Timm Registry YouTube Channel.

Mr. Nick Bamert | Transcript
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Please introduce yourself and tell us about your career.

I'm Nick Bamert, and class of '81, and my wife is Rayniel Bamert. I grew up on a, uh, irrigated farm north of Muleshoe and my dad grew cotton, millet, and grass seed and as I came home, we continued to grow different species of grasses, and primarily for wildlife habitat, coal mine reclamation, grassland improvements, and highway contracts, anytime people wanted to put this land back into grass, conservation issues, conservation usually is what we would do.

What do you value most about your experiences at Texas A&M?

Trips that we went on – Ag Eco trips. We went to California once and we also went to mid- ... through the Midwest, and this really gave me an opportunity to meet people, and kind of learn how to do that – coming from a small town you just knew everybody – and so that always helped me in not only getting to know people through clubs and organizations, but it provided me an opportunity to really develop leadership skills in kind of a safe environment, you know, and I really appreciate that about the Ag Economics department.

What impact has your degree from Texas A&M had on your professional career?

The degree I think allowed me a lot of flexibility, at least at that time I can take the other courses - if I want to take more accounting or more finance there was enough electives it gave me that opportunity. In my case, I took some agronomy and marketing classes that weren't necessarily under my degree plan, but it really helped me later in life. And then I guess the next thing would be the aggie ring. You know, when I... I could be anywhere in the United States, or across the globe, and it's kind of worn after 40 years, but people still recognize it, you know, and all of a sudden you have something to talk about. And that meant a whole lot, so, that's where I...

What has been the biggest challenge in your career? How have you faced it?

In 1985, the USDA Farm Bill came out and they went to set aside several million acres of commodities, and ... and , naturally, with us being the native seed business, we... it kind of created a catalyst for us to really increase our production, as well as processing, and marketing, and it really helped us start building our business in... and kind of going not only from a farm that grew seed, but into a seed company that provided seed throughout the United States and internationally, and so that - that really helped us to go ahead and make the financial commitment to - to build a business, and it's really been a fun experience for me.

What is your proudest accomplishment in your career?

We have been fortunate enough to be able to provide the plant material to restore, you know, tens of millions of acres of critical habitat for, you know, that really helps us improve the environment, control pollution in some areas, enhanced wildlife, and ... we're not just talking about, you know, mammals or birds, but I mean pollinators, you know, even things down to soil microbes and biologicals for soil health, but I think we've really been a factor in helping to improve our environment. I'm very proud of it.

Besides hard work, what does it take to be a successful professional?

Out of gratitude comes a positive attitude, and, to me, the attitude makes all the difference in the world. And, not only does it affect your life, but it gives you an opportunity to provide enthusiasm to your employees, and people within your organization, and also your customer. And, so, they see that you have a good, winning attitude, then it's contagious. A very, very important aspect of that.

What kind of goals do you continue to set? How do they help you to grow?

You know, I set business goals, and family goals, and then personal goals, and so as far as like a business goal, what I'm currently working on is just to grow myself, become a better leader within our

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organization, because at this point primarily my sons and people within our organization, for taking over quite a bit of the day-to-day operations, but I think if I can be a mentor to them and our organization, I think it's critical for me to continue to – to provide leadership to them and hopefully that goes ... they take that on and improve their personal lives and just make it better for our communities and everything. Hopefully, it'll just continue to grow

How do you balance your career with your family life?

We work hard, but then whenever it comes time to take off we try to do that. How was able to do that was, I created, kind of boundaries which simplified my...my reasoning. I put their...their events on my calendar and with those boundaries I just always felt ... it was pretty easy for me to go, "Well I could make that event or I can't make it," based upon, you know, criteria of how important that was and I'm kind of proud of the fact I think if you ask my family now, sons, they would say, "Well I don't really remember when you weren't in it event."

What advice do you have for Agricultural Economics students who are about to graduate and start their careers?

Several years ago, I joined an entrepreneurial group and we meet once a quarter and things that we talk about is what challenges they have, what challenges ,you know, what opportunities they're looking at, and what we get out... we learned a lot from each other because we all go through the same type of concern, but just having people - especially if you're in a family business or you know a relatively small business they you can depend on.

Is there anything else you would like to add?

The best investment that anyone can ever make, throughout their life, his investment in himself, and so I just encourage them to continue to learn, and grow. You know, this isn't certainly the end this is just the beginning. And, as far as the award, the Ty Timm award, I am very humbled to receive that award and I will do my best to honor the people gone through before me; it's an elite group of recipients. But, thank you again for the opportunity.

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Transcribed by
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June 4, 2020