

A wedding photograph of a man and a woman standing outdoors in front of a brick building. The man is wearing a dark grey tuxedo jacket over a black shirt and tie. The woman is wearing a white lace wedding dress with a white fur stole and is holding a large bouquet of greenery and white flowers. A dark blue rectangular box with white text is in the top right corner of the photo.

# DEREK & LESLEE

## HELLO!

*Thank you for checking out our profile!* We are so excited to share a little bit about our life, our farm, and our crazy-fun community of friends and family! We share a beautiful life filled with abundant blessings, and we pray for the opportunity to know you and to love your baby alongside of you.

The best way to describe us is a little bit country and a little bit city! After finishing veterinary school, Derek returned home to South Dakota and is a proud fifth-generation farmer / rancher. Leslee moved to Washington State as a young adult, and later started a career working with kids and families. After fifteen years in the city, Leslee returned to South Dakota, *and that's where our story begins.*



## DEREK & LESLEE

# WHERE OUR STORY BEGINS...

We met by chance, both attending a small-town music festival. Derek didn't know it at the time, but he would spend the next several months helping to care for Leslee's young rescue boxer who was diagnosed with heart failure. He put his veterinary training to good use and gave her the very best at-home care anyone could hope for. *In many ways, she brought us together in an unexpected way.*



**OUR HOME IS  
DEREK'S CHILDHOOD  
HOME, WHICH WAS  
BUILT BY HIS GREAT  
GRANDFATHER,  
WITH THE HELP OF  
HIS GREAT, GREAT  
GRANDFATHER.**

Together we have two dogs. Dot is our blue heeler cattle dog, and Miley is our boxer, mostly couch dog. Dot loves cattle, Ranger rides, splashing in puddles, and finding and burying anything she views as a 'treasure'. Miley is a bit less country, and a lot more 'fancy'. Miley loves gravel road runs, naps on the couch, baths, and being anywhere her favorite people are.

Our home is Derek's childhood home, which was built by his great grandfather, with the help of his great, great grandfather. While it still has much of the charm of the original farmhouse, we remodeled our home in 2022 in preparation for expanding our family. Our house is just over 3,000 square feet on five acres of land. We are surrounded by country roads, cattle, and family. Our closest neighbors (less than one mile away) are our future child's grandparents. We also have siblings, nieces, and nephews living anywhere from three minutes to three hours from us. Our favorite part of life on the farm is being surrounded by so much family!





# About LESLEE by Derek



*Leslee loves kids and has a special affection for children in foster care; her favorite time of year is helping to coordinate Christmas for all of the kids and families!* Leslee is incredibly patient, kind, and loving. Leslee loves being surrounded by family and makes sure all sleepover Saturdays include popcorn and ice cream. Leslee loves the Lord and helping support children's ministry. Leslee decorates for every holiday and makes sure to choose the largest Christmas tree in the lot every Christmas! She started our family tradition of hot cocoa and tree shopping, and makes sure every holiday season includes an evening of driving around and looking at Christmas lights.

Leslee loves taking our nieces and nephews to Storybook Land, out on the pontoon, and going to our oldest nephew's track meets. *Leslee loves traveling, road trips, running, and spending time with our dogs.* She works from home, but on occasion when she travels back to Washington for work, she leaves me with dinner (to make sure I eat) and a note, reminding me how much she loves me. Leslee loves ice cream and iced coffee and is always ready for an adventure – big or small!



## THINGS THAT MAKE LESLEE HAPPY

Running

Iced coffee

Dogs

Hosting football Sundays –  
Go Hawks

Traveling



# About DEREK by Leslee

Derek is incredibly special! *He loves the Lord, our family, and all things farming, camping, and fishing.* Derek loves ice cream sandwiches, kitchen dance parties, movies and popcorn, basketball, and dressing up as Santa and delivering gifts to our nieces and nephews every Christmas. When Derek gets calving calls, his preferred payment is in cookies! Oh, and sometimes, fresh baked cookies for Derek show up in our mailbox, just because.

Derek is best known by our nieces and nephews as 'Buddyyyyyy'. *He's always up for a make-believe spa day, worm hunting excursion, Nerf gun war, or a quick Ranger ride to the pasture to give treats to our cows.* Derek has a brilliant business mind, and a deep affection for animals – big and small. He has a huge heart, the goofiest personality, and loves to pick on his siblings. Derek is the second oldest of five children, and he shares a special and fun relationship with each of them. *His heart will always be on the farm that his family started back in the late 1800's, but he also loves to travel and experience new places!*



## THINGS THAT MAKE DEREK HAPPY

Faith

Farming

South Dakota State  
Jackrabbits

Family

Apple pie





## FAMILY & FRIENDS



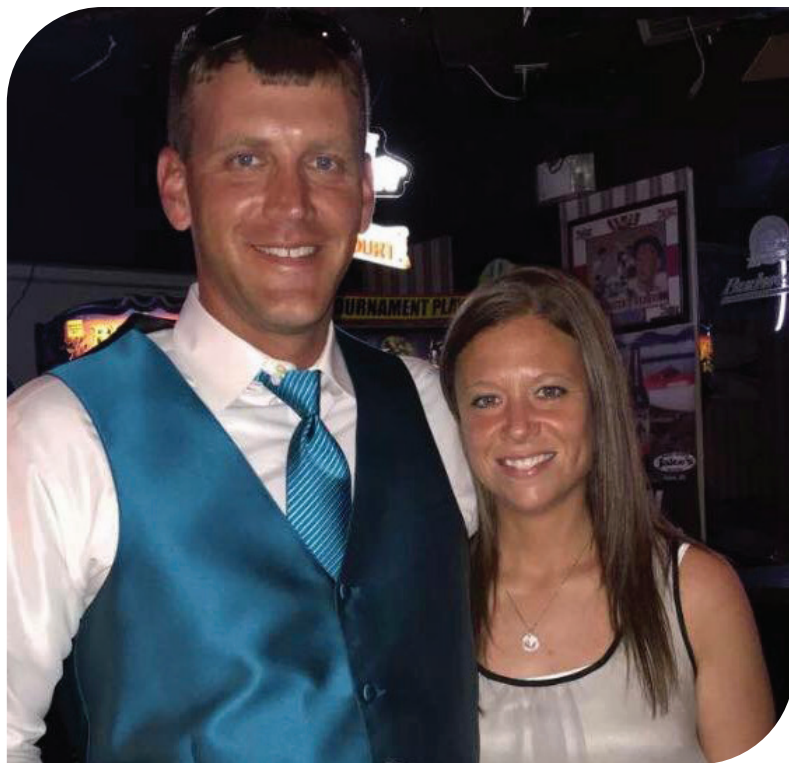
OUR FAVORITE PART OF FARM-LIFE IS BEING SURROUNDED BY SO MUCH FAMILY!



# THOUGHTS ON ADOPTION

We are excited for this opportunity to expand our wild and crazy-fun family! Leslee has spent the last 19 years working with children in foster care and helping support youth and families experiencing difficult life circumstances. When Derek was a child, his parents were foster parents. *Since the very beginning of our relationship, we have talked about becoming licensed foster parents and/or expanding our family through adoption.* We have spent many nights praying over this decision and we know we are meant to grow our family through adoption.

*We understand that adoption includes both joy and sadness, laughter and tears, and we are committed to being with you, each other, and the child we hope to raise through all of it – good times and difficult ones.* We know that children are precious, and to be trusted with such a special gift is not a responsibility we take lightly. We are committed to leading, loving, and opening every door of opportunity possible to a child, and we are beyond excited to watch them grow into the person God created them to be.



## COMPASSION

*We hope to offer a child the best of both worlds – city life and farm life – and watch them discover their interests and grow their passions.* We hope to help a child have compassion, empathy, and a deep-rooted desire to do what is right, even when it's difficult. We hope to be the parents a child comes to with their struggles, and the first call they make to celebrate their successes! *We hope to incorporate childhood traditions they carry on for generations!* Most of all, we hope they always know how much they are loved by so many.

## FAMILY

## EMPATHY

## TRADITIONS







THANK YOU!!!

*Thank you for taking the time to view our profile and learn about our family.* Although we don't know each other, we want you to know we have been praying over you and your baby. We hope you know what a beautiful, life-giving choice you are making for your baby.



DEREK & LESLEE