

James "Jim" LeFebre, age 86, of Lodgepole, SD, passed away on Saturday evening, June 28, 2025 at the Western Horizons Care Center in Hettinger, ND.

James was born to Cornelius and Ruth (Fredlund) LeFebre on July 1, 1938, joining siblings Richard, Carol, and Fern on the family farm south of Lodgepole. He attended Fredlund School through 8th grade, and then Hettinger High School. After graduation he chose to stay on the farm and work together with his parents. He treasured the summers his nephews spent with him on the farm, and they always held a special place in his heart.

Jim married Beverly (Doerr) Dragoo on November 11, 1975, and welcomed Lana and Ron into his life. A year later Carol Ann was born. While Jim was hoping for a boy, he soon found that having a "daddy's girl" wasn't so bad, either. Three years later their family was made complete with the addition of Mark Alan. Jim was ecstatic to have his little "hired man" to work by his side and pass his knowledge and skills on to. And together they built a life they loved on their little farm down in the valley.

Jim loved the Lord and was a member of the Holland Center Christian Reformed Church. He loved his "Bevvy." They worked together as partners on the farm, never ran out of things to talk about, and never a cross word was spoken. They were always holding hands, and when her health began to deteriorate, he dedicated himself to caring for her. He loved his family. His wallet was bursting at the seams with photos of them, and he'd share stories about his loved ones with anyone who would listen. He loved this country and was proud to have served in the North Dakota National Guard for 12 years and forged many lifelong friendships during that time. He loved Ford vehicles, Ford and International Harvester tractors, and Vermeer balers (because they're made by Christian Reformed Dutchmen). He loved everything about farming and ranching, but harvest was his favorite. It was a sacred time - getting his 403 International combines prepped for the season, tailgate lunchbreaks, teaching the next generation how to drive the truck and combine, often working late into the night to gather the last windrow of grain before the arrival of the predicted storms...always keeping the running tally of bushels in his brain so he could proudly report the yield, then making the trips to the elevator in his blue 1974 Ford truck to deliver the fruits of the year's labor. He loved working in his shop - repairing or restoring vehicles, building and creating things. There was nothing he couldn't fix or figure out, and there are numerous clever little inventions around the farm that he created over the years. He loved helping people and would drop what he was doing and give the shirt off his back to do so. He loved talking to people and making connections, and "never met a stranger," as they say. He loved music, harmony, and singing, and was one of the founding members of The Borderline Singers. He was a man of his word, and valued honesty, integrity, and hard work. He took on many side jobs throughout the years to help make ends meet, including hauling hay and driving a mail route. And he loved to laugh - always with a twinkle in his eye and a joke or story at the ready.

Grateful for having shared his life are Jim's children, Lana Ellenwood of Rapid City, Ron (Brenda) Dragoo of Hettinger, Carol (Mike) Stolley of Pierre, and Mark (Dodie) LeFebre of Mobridge; grandchildren Erin (Adam) Fahrner, Jordan Frey, and Ryan (Brianna) Ellenwood, Christopher (Ginger) Dragoo, Stephen (Kerry) Dragoo, and Heather (Jeb) Boxrud, James and Kate Stolley, and Lily LeFebre; great-grandchildren Bella, Aubrey, and Emilia Fahrner, Lydia Ellenwood, Layla and Madison Dragoo, Jason Dragoo, Briggs, Hartley, Gordee, Fitzgerald, and Wilder Boxrud; one sister Fern Stuart; sister-in-law Marianne LeFebre; one niece, Cindy (Kraig) Westendorf and five nephews, Larry and Jay LeFebre, and Gary, David, and Ken Loper.

Welcoming Jim to his eternal home are his wife Bev, parents Ruth and Cornelius LeFebre, siblings Charlotte and Richard LeFebre, and Carol Isakson; brothers-in-law Jerome Isakson and Lyle Stuart; one nephew and two nieces, Mark and Leann Isakson and Cathy (Jim) Haugo.

Memorials can be directed to the Lodgepole Volunteer Fire Department, of which Jim was a member.

In Loving Memory of **James "Jim" LeFebre**

July 1, 1938 - June 28, 2025



So God Made a Farmer

On the eighth day, God looked down on his planned paradise and said, "I need a caretaker."

So, God made a farmer.

God said, I need somebody willing to get up before dawn, milk cows, work all day in the fields, milk cows again, eat supper and then go to town and stay past midnight at a meeting of the Farm Bureau.

So, God made a farmer.

I need somebody with strong arms to wrestle a calf, yet gentle enough to deliver his own grandchild. Somebody to call hogs, tame cantankerous machinery, come home hungry and have to wait until his wife is done feeding visiting ladies, then tell the ladies come back soon.

So, God made a farmer.

God said, I need somebody willing to sit up all night with a new born colt and watch it die and then dry his eyes and say maybe next year. I need somebody who can shape an ax handle from a persimmon sprout and shoe a horse with a hunk of car tire. Who can make harness out of a hay wire, feed sacks and shoe scraps. Whose planting time and harvest season will finish his 40 hour week by Tuesday noon. Then, with the pain from tractor back, he will put in another 72.

So, God made a farmer.

God had to have somebody willing to ride the ruts at double-speed to get the hay in ahead of the rain clouds and yet stop in mid-field and race to help when he sees the first smoke from a neighbor's place.

So, God made a farmer.

God said, I need somebody strong enough to clear trees and heave bales, and yet gentle enough to wean lambs and pigs and tend the pink combed pullets. And who will stop his mower for an hour to splint the broken leg of a meadowlark.

So, God made a farmer.

It had to be somebody who would plow deep and straight and not cut corners. Somebody to seed, weed, feed, breed, and rake and disc and plow and plant and tie the fleece and strain the milk and replenish the self-feeder and finish a hard weeks work with a five mile drive to church. Somebody who would bale a family together with the soft strong bonds of sharing. Who would laugh, then sign and reply with smiling eyes... When his son says he wants to spend his life doing what Dad does!

So, God made a farmer.

In Loving Memory of **James "Jim" Arlan LeFebre**

Date and Place of Birth

July 1, 1938

Hettinger, ND

Date and Place of Death

June 28, 2025

Hettinger, ND

Funeral Service

2:00 p.m.

Sunday, July 6, 2025

Holland Center Christian Reformed Church

Lodgepole, SD

Rev. Brad Burkhalter, officiating

Special Music

Holland Center Christian Reformed Church Men's Group

Casketbearers

Ken Loper
Dave Loper
Jay LeFebre

Gary Loper
Larry LeFebre
Wade Chapman

Honorary Casketbearers

All of Jim's family and friends

Interment

Holland Center Cemetery

Military Honors

Rogers-Smith American Legion Post #255
South Dakota Honors Team

"When shadows fall across our lives and dim the sunshine's glow, by being here you help us bear our grief and onward go." With that thought in mind, we thank you for attending today's service. Please join the family at the church for refreshments and a time of fellowship.

Evanson Jensen Funeral Home

Greg Jensen, Matthew Barnes & Caitlin Johnson, Directors

Nicole Huffman, Assistant

www.evansonjensenfuneralhome.com