

He Never Worked On a Farm

I used to work on a farm. It was long, hard, hot work that didn't pay much. We labored from dawn to "dark-thirty." The salt-of-the-earth folks I worked with understood and practiced important values that have helped make our country great.

I'm worried our current president hasn't learned those values. He's from a big city and never worked on a farm.

Here are 15 of the rock-solid values from the farm. I hope people realize our president is embarrassing our country by not following them:

1. Respect women and don't joke about sexually assaulting them;
2. Judge people by how they act, not by the color of their skin or what country they're from;
3. Don't belittle our patriots who suffered as prisoners of war;
4. Respect people of different religions;
5. Help those less fortunate than you, and don't be impressed by someone just because they're rich;
6. Don't brag about yourself, and don't flaunt your wealth;
7. Don't overreact to criticism -- it shows how thin-skinned you are, and how little self-esteem you have;
8. Accept responsibility for your decisions instead of blaming others;
9. Speak carefully, without flying off the handle saying things out of emotional or mental instability;
10. Get your facts straight;
11. Don't deny or ignore long-term problems;
12. Listen to scientists;
13. Don't overstate or over-promise, and avoid using snake-oil salesman words like "huge," "terrific," "beautiful," "fantastic," and "amazing" to describe what you claim you can accomplish;
14. Work hard quietly, consistently, and with intelligent planning, knowing that complicated problems often require complicated solutions; and
15. Be respectful and supportive of our country's allies.

It's one thing for this president to embarrass our country. But I hope to God he doesn't also endanger it -- he could be just a few tweets away from inflaming our enemies and alienating our allies.

Roger Martin
Urbanna, Virginia