



**GARY MAKAMSON
FARMS**
Growing a legacy one crop at a time.

TIMELY RAINS TURN INTO UNUSUALLY HOT AND DRY...



Planting season went smooth this year with a few hiccups (as expected) in the startup days. The Lord blessed us with great timely rains to help the crops have a strong start which then made for healthy plants throughout the growing season. After this great start followed an unusually HOTTT dry spell. With the extra heat and minimum rain, irrigation was all the more important! The challenging task of laying approximately 4,000 acres of poly pipe loomed before the team

With so much irrigation pipe to lay on such hot days, Karen made a promise that she would have some frozen beverages waiting for everyone at the end of their final run. As the days got longer and hotter, the idea of that cold fruity concoction gave them the motivation they needed to keep going. The cold drinks and sombrero hats were a hit and greatly appreciated by the team.



WHAT'S GROWING ON THE FARM?

BARRY PLACE PURCHASE

Garry Makamson Farms has had the privilege of farming the “Barry Plantation” since 1989. When we first started renting the land, what we refer to as “The Barry”, we worked with Mrs. Wingfield Jones who is Grandmother of Winky Potwin Newman, one of the many heirs to the plantation who now acts as spokesperson.

When our partnership first began, an elderly couple named Willie Mae and Luther Fletcher were living on the land. Willie Mae and Luther continued to work with us and quickly became family. Luther died August 1998, but Willie Mae lived on another 9 years. After Luther's death, the Makamson family became caretakers for Willie Mae. Connie would take Willie Mae to her doctor appointments, pay her bills and run her errands once a week. Over the years, Willie Mae became closer and closer to the Makamson Family, especially Karen.

As a little girl, Karen spent hours helping Willie Mae clean chicken coops, collect eggs, eating good soul food (pickled pigs feet were her favorite) and doing general farm chores around their home. The Makamson family has fond memories of Willie Mae spending Christmas day with the family. She was always blown away with the delicious food and beautiful gifts that were shared. Karen had the privilege of picking out a very special dress for Willie Mae to wear to Karen's wedding where she would sit with the grandmothers. She was family, after all. A grandmother figure.

With deep relationships and the wonderful memories of years spent at the “Barry Place” etched in each of our hearts, we were over the moon excited at the opportunity to continue the tradition of farming this land. It is truly an honor to carry on the legacy of continuing the Barry Planation that began so many years ago.



Pictured left: Previous owner, Winky Potwin Newman and her sister, Vickie Potwin Smith

Willie Mae was adamant that Makamson Farms be on her tomb stone.



“I've been approached by realtors, solar companies, individuals, and received phone calls asking me if we were going to sell our family “Barry Plantation”. The answer was always the same, no. We were always hoping that when the time was right to ask Garry if they would be interested in our family's land. After all, he'd been farming it for almost 40 years, why would I consider anyone else? It was a very bittersweet adjustment for “me” letting go, but coming to know the family personally on the other hand made it easier. As the greeting cards say from our family to yours, we are delighted for the Makamson families to continue generations of farming.”

- **Winky Potwin Newman**

WORKING WITH COACH MAKO

Over the last few years GMF has put a lot of focus on the GMF team and the betterment of their lives both professionally and personally. We have leveled up our leadership skills by working with, Steven Makamson (Coach Mako).

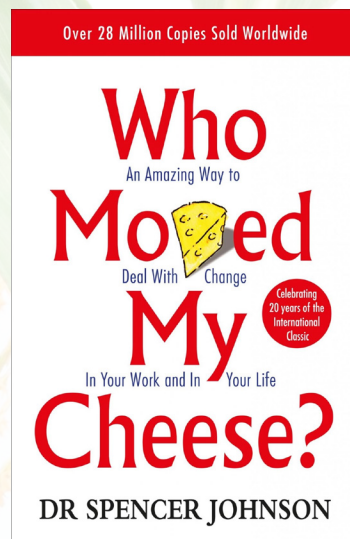
Coach Mako has worked with the management team on communication between each other as well as communication within the entire team. Our supervisor and executive leadership team completed training on developing a “Growth Mindset” and how to elevate our “Emotional Intelligence”. Both of these concepts have been very beneficial in helping us increase our capacities for leadership and working well together.



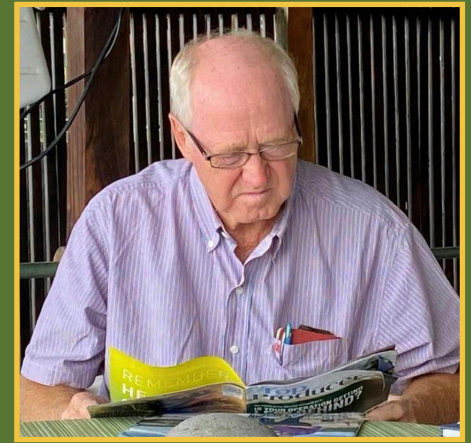
Mako is the son of Garry who is now fulfilling his passion as a Business Leadership Coach. One of his strengths is working with large organizations on how to reach the next level. In an ever changing climate like farming, it is very important to have a “growth” mindset and be ready to adapt to whatever changes may come. With multiple generations working together, finding common ground to work through differences can be a challenge. Thankfully, with Coach Mako’s training and background in farming, we have worked to mend that gap and move the operation forward. Coach Mako plans to continue working with the GMF team in the upcoming 2024 season.

ORIENTATION AT GARRY MAKAMSON FARMS

Each year before planting season begins, usually in late February or early March, Karen hosts the annual GMF orientation. We take a full day to discuss the upcoming farm season, personal goals as well as farm goals, crop plans, and the farm calendar. She presents an organization chart, coordinates guest speakers, and promotes self-development. This year, Stephen Edwards made a brief presentation about change in an inevitable climate and posed the question: How will YOU adjust in this climate? We also focused on the book Who Moved My Cheese? by Spencer Jonhson. The message of this book is that life won’t always give you what you want when you want it; sometimes things change unexpectedly. But if we can find ways to adapt and overcome our fears, then good things will come around again for us.



A QUOTE FROM COTTON:



“It’s hard to make money, but even harder to keep it.”

CONNIE’S CORNER:



The Grinch Kids Ice Cream Float

- In a large pitcher, place 3 to 4 scoops of Lime Sherbet or Vanilla Ice Cream. (Can also made in individual glasses if preferred!)
- Add Hawaiian Punch and Lemon Lime soda slowly so it doesn’t overflow.
- Garnish with a straw and sour candy heart if you’d like.

FERTILIZER

Every year we perform crop rotation and soil testing on all our acres. Crop rotation improves soil health and optimizes soil nutrients, while testing reveals what is lacking in the soil. Beneficial for both short term and long term planning, test results help us plan what fertilizers to utilize and then make adjustments on a 1, 3, 5 year plan to enrich the soil and replenish the missing nutrients. Making these improvements will not only lead to potential increases in our crop yield, but will also replenish nutrients that are taken from the soil. Replenishing the soil is a very important practice for our farm as we try our very best to be good stewards of the land the Lord has gifted us. Although a costly expense, it is absolutely necessary for the long term health of the soil and for the farming generation that will follow behind.

TRELLO

We have recently implemented the use of Trello with the employees of GMF. Trello is a collaboration tool that helps teams manage their projects and tasks. It is a visual tool that allows you to organize your work into boards, lists, and cards. You can add files, checklists, and even automation to customize it for your team's needs. We use it as our "white board" where everyone on the team can see tasks, maps, deadlines, etc. to communicate with each other what has been completed and what still needs to be done. Trello is a user friendly app that each team member accesses on their phone allowing us to easily update the "to-do" list in real time. Since using the Trello app, communication across the team has increased greatly on the operation.

*From our family to yours, wishing you a
Merry Christmas
from Garry Makamson Farms*

