



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

RISING HEAT. RISING PRICES. RISING YIELDS!



This summer the heat was oppressive and relentless as the majority of the farm went a full eight weeks without any significant amount of rainfall. It was a challenge to keep the various forms of irrigation constantly running to water some very thirsty crops. Due to political issues worldwide, supply for necessary chemicals and fertilizers were at an all-time low with demand as normal. Certain fertilizers tripled in price in a six month time span. For products which usually have a set yearly price, prices would change monthly and in some extreme cases daily. Like the value of your car or truck, equipment and repair part prices shot up to an unreasonable amount along with the price of diesel. Thankfully, commodity prices rose a little as well. Even with all these unforeseen challenges, there was a silver lining.... Before the widespread use of irrigation, cotton was king in the Mississippi Delta. The king is still alive! Cotton loves heat and humidity which allowed us to have fantastic cotton yields. It was a great year to be walking in high cotton.



WHAT'S GROWING ON THE FARM?

OLE RED



Curt Jolly has always had a passion for “fixing” things. Ever since Curt, AKA MacGyver, was a child he has enjoyed taking things apart, figuring out how they work and putting them back together. When the opportunity came along for him to restore his grandfather’s tractor that had been passed across and down several generations, the only challenge would be to find the time. COVID-19 supplied that opportunity as rebuilding the 1950 M “OLE RED” was a job he could do alone and outside. From start to finish, the labor of love took him about two years to complete. Curt enjoyed every minute of rebuilding the beauty even though he knew he would never get his money or time invested in the project back. But, the joy of cranking the tractor for the first time and it firing up immediately made it all worth it! Since it’s been running, five generations of Jollys have gotten the chance to ride on the 72 year old tractor. Curt hopes his descendants will keep Ole Red in the family to pass down for at least another 72 years.

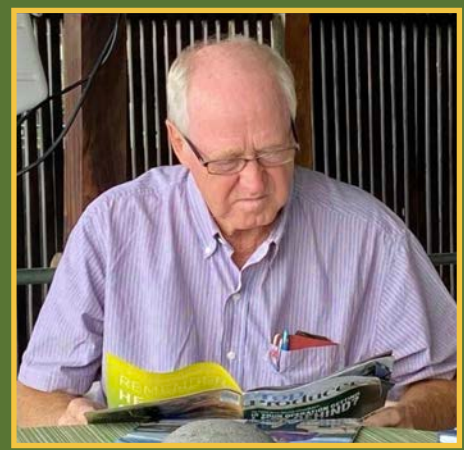


LET THE GOOD TIMES ROLL!

WOOHOO!!! The farm team hit all their goals for harvest and fall field work! As a result, the team traveled to Gatlinburg and Garry Makamson Farms treated them to a day at Anakeesta. Everyone put in the extra hours to make it happen. The team got to experience some much needed rest, relaxation, and fun. Beautiful walks through the mountains, good food, a few bear sightings, and a karaoke set (with a little moonshine) made for a great time!



A QUOTE FROM COTTON:



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

CONNIE’S CORNER:



Toffee Squares

- Line a cookie sheet with heavy duty aluminum foil.
- Spread saltine crackers on pan.
- Melt 2 sticks of butter and 1 cup of brown sugar. Bring to a boil for 3 minutes, stirring frequently.
- Pour over crackers. Bake at 350 degrees for 10 minutes. Sprinkle with nuts and let cool. Break apart. Simple and delicious!

UNCOMMON FARMS ANNUAL MEETING

In February we attended our annual UnCommon Farms meeting. UnCommon Farms is a St. Louis based consulting firm, formerly known as “Family Farms Group”, and has a membership of approximately 80 farm teams across the country. They offer a full suite of business, financial, and insurance solutions for family farms across North America. Every year we have a week-long meeting where we get together to hear keynote speakers related to the ag industry and participate in break out sessions. We also have a regional mini conference with a similar layout and participate in “peer groups” with fellow farmers who share similar financial and transitional situations. After 12 years of membership, we have experienced many ups and downs with the other members and many of them have become like family.

From UnCommon Farms came “UnCommon Farms Foundation”, the charity developed by members in an effort to use their farming expertise to promote food security and nutrition across the country. Mom (Connie Makamson) has been serving on the board for several years. Each year they have a big fundraiser at our annual meeting to raise money and create an emergency fund should a member have a tragedy or a natural disaster strike. This year, they raised over \$100,000 from a live auction. Auction items donated from members and keynote speakers ranged from a Gucci purse to a signed Dallas Cowboys jersey and helmet from keynote speaker, Chad Henning.



Above: UnCommon Farms speakers, Al Tank and Dick Whitman



Left: Keynote Speaker, Chad Henning, US Air Force Fighter Pilot, 3x Super Bowl Champion, Author & Entrepreneur

Below: Bill and Roger Calcutta at the silent auction



Above: The 2023 UnCommon Farms Foundation Board



Right: Steven with an Uncommon cactus

