



WHAT'S **GROWING** ON THE **FARM?**

Planting 2017

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Planting 2017 is wrapping up. This year we decided to bring in some help from the deep south...from way down south and across the ocean, South Africa. Through the H-2A temporary agricultural program, we brought over two young men from South Africa. By obtaining a temporary agricultural work visa, our two employees come to work for approximately nine months, then return home for three months. After remaining at home for 3 months, they have the option of returning to the U.S. and participating in the program for another 9 months. The H-2A program is becoming increasingly popular in agriculture across the U.S. as there are employees from all over the world that participate in the program. Farmers in the Mississippi Delta have been using mostly young men from South Africa because of their experience in agriculture and ability to speak English.

Our employees are named Jacques and Wian. ("Wian" is pronounced QUITE differently than it is spelled). Spending over twenty-four hours in the air and over two and a half days in travel, the two had quite a journey in getting here! Even though they were a BIT jet lagged, they were very anxious to start work right away. And work they have! The two South Africans have not disappointed us. They are both very quick learners and extremely hard workers. Most importantly, they have fit right in and work well with the rest of our team at Garry Makamson Farms. The H-2A program has been a success for all involved.





You may wonder where their first outing was? Where else, but the Greenwood Wal-Mart!! They had never been to a Wal-Mart. They were mesmerized at first by all the options and how big it was. Once they had gotten everything they needed, (including a Playstation) They were ready to get to the farm and get to work.

Q & A with Wian and Jacques

Wian (on the left)

What has been your favorite part about America? I like it all.

What has been your least favorite part? The rain keeping us from working.

What has been the most interesting experience you have had since you have been here? Being asked the question if we have cheeseburgers in South Africa. The answer is yes. Yes we eat hamburgers in South Africa. Sometimes we even add cheese.

What has been the most exciting thing you have learned? Learning how all the technology works on the equipment.

What do you think about the American lifestyle? I enjoy being surrounded by Christians.

Do all the South Africans use a hammer to fix everything? Yes. The bigger the problem. The bigger the hammer.

Jacques (on the right)

What has been your favorite part about America? The people I work with.

What has been your least favorite part? The summer heat and the fact that no one eats lamb.

What has been the most interesting experience you have had since you have been here? Technology and the way we farm.

What has been the most exciting thing you have learned? Planting with the GPS.

What do you think about the American lifestyle? I LOVE IT! Everyone is chill, go with the flow. Everyone is very friendly. They have a happy go lucky attitude.

Do all the South Africans use a hammer to fix everything? Yes. The bigger the problem. The bigger the hammer.

Learn to speak Afrikaans

We thought it would be fun to share a little of the Afrikaans language that we have learned. Here is a conversation between Jacques and Wian to help you test your knowledge of Afrikaans. While reading the conversation, see if you can interpret the Afrikaans words.

Jacques to Wian, "Wian, fetch me the *bobbejean spanner*. I left the *bobbejean spanner* in the back of the *bakkie*. After we are finished working on this *truck*, we will have a *braai* and it will be quite *lakker*."

Bobbejean spanner(Bobby Jean spanner)-Wrench

Bakki(Bocky)-Pickup Truck

Truck-18 Wheeler ONLY, not a pickup truck.

Braai, rhymes with cry)- To grill or Roast

Lakker(Lacker)- Good

Connie's Corner

Goodmomma's Peach Cobbler

Ingredients

1 cup of sugar

1 cup of flour

1 stick of butter (melted)

1 large can of sliced peaches in heavy syrup

1 cup of milk

Mix all ingredients together in mixing bowl. Pour ingredients into 9x11 casserole dish. Bake on 350 degrees for one hour.



A Quote from Cotton

Garry is often offering words of wisdom, but only if you listen closely will you catch the value of them. Most of the time they are short, but they carry a lot of thought and meaning. We have started keeping track of these quotes and plan to share some here in our section "A Quote from Cotton."

"If you take care of the little details...the big details will usually take care of themselves."

2017 Planting Kickoff Dinner

The start of a new farm year is similar to the start of a new college football season. Will the year-long planning, preparation, and new pieces come together in the fall for a successful year? What new technology will we be using, what crops will we be growing, how are the farm markets going to change, what will mother nature throw at us? We start each year with a general plan in place, but we know that plan will change continuously. The thrill of the unknown keeps farming exciting! Like pep rallies to celebrate and encourage a football team, we host a kickoff dinner to do the same for our farm team. Our 2017 kickoff dinner was hosted at the Town Market Restaurant in Inverness where everyone enjoyed great food and got to meet our South Africans. We discussed the gameplan for the year, but mostly, everyone was anticipating getting back to doing what they love-FARMING.



