



Planting 2016

Inside:

- Agronomy 101
- Grain Safety Training
- Planting Season 2016
- Murdock Crossing

WHAT'S GROWING ON THE FARM?

Garry Makamson Farms employees were busy this winter preparing for this year's planting season. The farm hosted a couple of classes, Agronomy 101 and Grain Handling Safety, to help improve efficiency and safety on the farm.

Our first annual Agronomy 101 class was taught by Jay Mahaffey from the Monsanto Learning Center. Jay taught us about the basics of planting and shared with us various yield improvement techniques based on seed placement within the soil. For example, corn planted at 2.75 inches below the soil averages about 11 bushels an acre more than corn planted at 1.5 inches. That's a big difference! Jay also taught us that the height of the cotton crop or "high cotton" is not necessarily correlative with a high yield. As a cotton plant grows taller, more and more nutrients are required to sustain the height of the plant. However, the tall height may come at a price because these nutrients could be used for enlarging the size of the bolls and increasing yields. Although taller cotton is generally better, "high cotton" may not always give us the highest yields.



Grain Safety Training



Grain Handling Safety Coalition

Garry Makamson Farms, Express Grain, Dulaney Seed, and the Grain Handling Safety Coalition teamed up to host a grain safety training class in Minter City at our Missiana location. The invite-only event was attended by 60 farmers in the Mississippi Delta. Led by the Grain Handling Safety Coalition, the two day class educated farmers about the importance of safety when entering and working in grain bins. The Coalition team's training was split into a lecture and hands-on training.

During the lecture portion, farmers learned about the importance of having appropriate safety procedures in place to prevent accidents. For example, using a "lock out/tag out" technique, a farmer who enters the grain bin locks the electrical box with a red pad lock. Upon entering the bin, the same farmer or another farmer inside the bin keeps the key while remaining in the bin. If anyone walked up to the grain site or bin, they would be unable to turn on any electrical device while a farmer is inside. This is a simple but effective technique that has saved lives.

During the hands-on portion, the class learned how to properly wear a harness, enter a grain bin, and what NOT to do. A highlight was a modular example of what happens when there is a "crest" in the grain bins. The example showed a small version of the grain bin with grain inside and a small man standing on the balloon. When the balloon, representing an air pocket that can form inside the bin, was popped, the man fell far beneath the grain. In a real-life situation, this would result in death. However, when the man was wearing the safety harness, the safety strap would catch him preventing him from falling any further than his waist. When a person falls into a grain bin, they have a maximum of seconds before the pressure of the grain causes their lungs to collapse resulting in suffocation and death. Everyone who attended the class commented that they will be much more cautious upon entering the bins.

We were excited and grateful for the opportunity to host this event for us and our neighbor farms! We thank our sponsors, Express Grain and Dulaney Seed, and enjoyed our delicious lunch provided by Larry's Fish House! We hope to be able to host similar events in the future.



PLANTING SEASON 2016



Curt and Matt applying a tip they learned from Agronomy 101; checking the seed depth.



When you don't have pen and paper to discuss the planting plans. A pole and dust will do :) Garry and Jim were drawing out field maps.



It's never too early to learn the planting process. Ricky explains how the seed is loaded into the planter.



Planting Season is coming to a close. This is always an exciting yet anxious time of year. All the seed is in the ground and now the farmers have to let mother nature run its course. This spring was a slow start with a fast finish. The rain kept coming at the beginning causing a delay to planting season. The window of opportunity was smaller than usual requiring our team to have to get planting done quickly and correctly. Many of the team members pulled "all-nighters" and several were up until the wee hours of the morning to get the seeds in the ground. A team this dedicated is rare. Everyone pulled together in the time of need. Garry Makamson Farms is extremely thankful and blessed to have such hard workers who treat the farm as their own. Even though it was a slow start, God has smiled upon the crops and sent a few rains to help them grow. It won't be long now till it's time to dust off the combines and cotton pickers. Harvest is right around the corner.



Murdock Crossing

Look out! There is a new farmer in town! Well kinda.. Garry, Karen and Stephen went into their first farm partnership together this year. Murdock Crossing is the location of the 16th section land in Quito, MS where the three are farming this year. Stephen and Karen are excited about the new adventure while Garry is excited about sharing his experience and level-headedness with the next generation. Moisture has been a particular challenge with Murdock this season as rain has been light to non-existent and irrigation has been tricky. It took quite a bit of thought and engineering on Garry's part to figure out how to lay the pipe a complete mile without a break. With the instruction and guidance from our farm's employees, Stephen got to help lay poly-pipe for the very first time! There was a difference in the corn's health from sun up to sun down with just one drink of water. We are excited about our new venture!



Connie's Corner

Mississippi Roast

- 1 Chuck Roast
- 1 Packet Hidden Valley Ranch Dressing Mix
- 1 Packet McCormick Au Jus mix
- 5 whole Pepperoncicni peppers
- 1 stick butter

Directions:

Put a chuck roast in the crock pot. Sprinkle Hidden Valley ranch dry dressing mix and McCormick Au Jus mix on top. Add a stick of butter and about 5 pepperoncini peppers. (You buy them in a jar.) Do NOT add water. Cook in crock pot on low for about 8 hours.



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."

"Cotton" is Garry's special granddad name!

When Garry knows he is right about something that is being debated. Instead of arguing his point he will say...

"If a chicken dips snuff, look under his wings"