



WELCOME TO THE FARM, TYLER REESER!

We're thrilled to highlight our incredible farm manager, Tyler Reeser! Tyler has been the missing piece to our puzzle—his hard work, dedication, and fresh perspective have truly elevated our operation. With 5 years of experience as a farm manager and a year under his belt at Garry Makamson Farms, he's already brought innovative ideas and a renewed energy to the team. Tyler and his wife, Kacey, are both from Greenwood and have two boys, Logan and Rowan, ages 8 and 5. Kacey is a Morgan City native and actually grew up down the road from the farm. We're so grateful to have Tyler steering the ship and can't wait to see what the future holds under his leadership!



HELP FROM A CITY BOY

Stephen's dad, Steve Edwards—known as "Mac" to the kids and everyone on the farm—grew up in Jackson, helping run the family grocery store. When Steve and Karen launched their newest business venture, Mac was eager to lend a hand. During peak season, he drove up to pitch in, doing everything from fieldwork to applying fertilizer and loading/unloading grain carts during harvest. He especially loved his time on the tractor! Mac's hard work and enthusiasm were a tremendous help, and his support meant the world to the whole team.



WHAT'S GROWING ON THE FARM?

TECHNOLOGY ON THE FARM



Putting the Drone to Work

Garry has always dreamed of having a drone, so when the opportunity came to buy one at a very reasonable price, we couldn't pass it up. Without telling him, we made the purchase and surprised him with the gift when it arrived. He was absolutely thrilled! This isn't just any drone—it's a large agricultural drone designed to spray chemicals on the field. We plan to start using it in 2025 to spray edges, ditch banks, and other tight places that are hard for the sprayer to reach. There aren't many of these drones in our area yet, as they're just starting to go mainstream. It's the same kind of technology used to spray sanitizer in stadiums during the COVID years. We are excited to put this cutting-edge tool to work on the farm!

Amazon

The Amazone spreader is a game-changer for precise and efficient field management. It allows for accurate application of granule-based products, seeds, and fertilizers, ensuring materials are applied exactly where needed and preventing overlap or unintended spread due to wind. Thanks to its design, products are dispensed directly from the bottom, minimizing waste and increasing accuracy. Equipped with a cutting-edge weather station, the Amazone adjusts the propeller's speed and direction based on wind conditions, making it the most precise spreader on the market.

One of its standout features is the ability to send "prescriptions" specific rates and locations of fertilizer application based on soil map readings. These prescriptions are built on a computer, sent directly to the tractor, and ready to use—allowing the driver to focus solely on spreading while the Amazone handles the calculations. This ensures plants get exactly what they need while reducing costs by avoiding unnecessary applications.

This winter, we used the Amazone to broadcast cover crops, applying both fertilizer and seed with precision. Compared to using an airplane, the Amazone saved significant costs and delivered a more accurate application. It's a tool that's revolutionizing the way we work our fields.



50TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

Happy 50th Wedding Anniversary to Nonnie and Cotton (Garry and Connie)! Over the past 50 years, they've faced their share of ups and downs, sickness and health, wins and losses, and better and worse. Through it all, their love and commitment have stood the test of time. I think they'd both agree—there's no one else they'd rather share life with! To celebrate this incredible milestone, they took a trip to Portugal, creating even more beautiful memories together.



A QUOTE FROM COTTON:



“Opportunity is missed by most people because it's dressed in overalls and looks like work.”
- Thomas Edison.

CONNIE'S CORNER:

Cranberry Salsa Dip

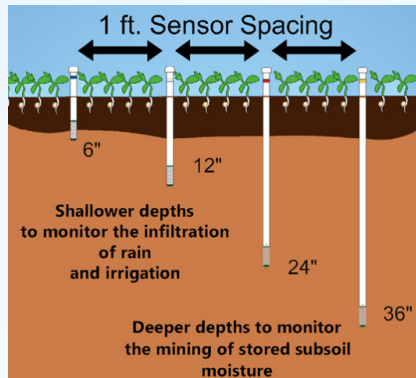


- Pulse the cranberries in a food processor or blender until coarsely chopped. Add the green onions, cilantro, jalapeno, sugar, cumin, lemon juice and salt and pulse until the ingredients are well combined and finely chopped. Transfer the mixture to a covered container and refrigerate for 4 hours (or up to overnight) so the flavors have time to meld and develop.
- When ready to serve, spread the cream cheese in an even layer on a serving plate or 9-inch pie dish. Top with the cranberry-jalapeno mixture.
- Refrigerate for up to an hour before serving. Serve with crackers

- 12 ounces (340 g) fresh cranberries
- 4-5 green onions, chopped
- ¼ cup chopped fresh cilantro
- 1 jalapeno pepper, seeded and finely diced
- 1 cup (212 g) sugar, more or less to taste
- ½ teaspoon ground cumin
- 2 tablespoons fresh lemon or lime juice
- ¼ teaspoon salt
- 2 (8-ounces each) packages (454 g) cream cheese, light or regular, softened
- Crackers, for serving



MSU SHORT COURSE



We recently attended a short course at Mississippi State University, offered by the Extension Office, and it did not disappoint. Presenters included professors specializing in soybeans, cotton, and corn, alongside chemical representatives who shared valuable insights. There were also guest professors from agricultural extension programs across the South, creating a well-rounded and in-depth experience. The attendees, primarily farmers from across Mississippi, made for great networking and knowledge-sharing opportunities.

A key focus of the course was irrigation, where we discovered that many farmers are "overwatering." Presenters introduced techniques to reduce water usage while boosting yields—a vital discussion as water supplies become increasingly limited in other parts of the country. We explored innovative tools like soil moisture sensors, which measure water

availability at depths of 6 to 24 inches, providing precise data to optimize irrigation efforts. Beyond irrigation, the course covered updates on seed variety performance across different soil types, emerging chemical resistance trends, and weather predictions for 2025. A standout topic was the use of drones in agriculture. Three speakers discussed everything from the certification process for flying drones to test results of drones for weed control and a comparison of drones with airplanes and traditional sprayers. The course left us energized and equipped with cutting-edge techniques and tools to enhance farm productivity and sustainability. It's always exciting to learn from experts and peers in the field!

SCAVENGER HUNT ON THE FARM



We recently hosted a Farm Scavenger Hunt, and it was an absolute hit! All the clues and items were located on the farm, and participants had to either retrieve the items or snap a photo. The challenge was simple: be the first to find everything on the list to win! The hunt included practical items like the first aid kit, Emergency Action Plan, fire extinguishers, and our farm logo. But we couldn't resist adding some fun! Tasks like giving an employee a piggyback ride and doing a group yoga pose brought plenty of laughs and camaraderie. To round out the event, we included a Q&A session on the history of Garry Makamson Farms. Questions covered topics like when GMF was established, who the longest-working employee is and how long they've been with us, and the highest yields GMF has ever achieved. It was a great way to combine teamwork, learning, and a whole lot of fun!

END OF YEAR PARTY

We wrapped up the year with an epic party playing paintball in Memphis! All but two of our field operator employees joined in the fun. Miss Debbie from Twin Rivers picked us up bright and early at 7 a.m. in her trusty 12-passenger van, keeping the destination a secret. The guys only knew to wear old clothes and bring a change.

The paintball games were a blast, with plenty of friendly competition and laughs. Afterward, we headed to Germantown for lunch at a fun little pub called Bog and Barley. To top it off, we made a quick stop down Beale Street to soak in the atmosphere before heading home. It was the perfect way to celebrate the end of the year and enjoy some well-earned team bonding!

