



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

ON THE HUNT FOR FUN

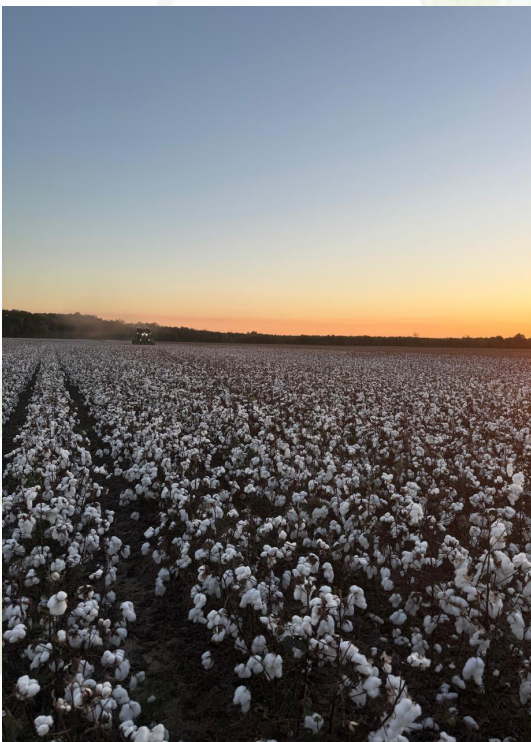
Last year's scavenger hunt was such a hit, we decided to do it again! The Garry Makamson Farms teams celebrated the successful end of planting season with a fun scavenger hunt around Greenwood. Divided into teams, they raced around town, snapping pictures with landmarks and quirky objects to complete their list. It was the perfect way to unwind after weeks of hard work in the fields!

We continued with the fun by celebrating the completion of the daunting task of laying polypipe with some water balloons and other games. After all the hard work, everyone was ready for some fun and a much needed opportunity to cool off.



NEW GROUND

This past year, we expanded our operation by picking up 880 acres of new ground known as Mossy Island. Located about 10 miles away, roughly a 30-minute drive, this addition marked an exciting step in our goal to grow our acreage. We planted cotton on the island for its first season under our management, making Mossy Island an important part of our continued growth and future plans.



WHAT'S GROWING ON THE FARM?

MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION

Karen began serving on the MSU Extension Board this past year and works closely with our new Extension Agent, Tim Fondren. The Mississippi State University Extension Service provides research-based information, educational programs, and technology transfer focused on issues and needs of the people of Mississippi, enabling them to make informed decisions about their economic, social, and cultural well-being.

Tim, born and raised on a Cotton and Soybean farm in Greenwood, brings deep local knowledge and a strong commitment to agriculture in Leflore County. After many years in management, he chose to return to his roots in agriculture by joining MSU Extension in a combined Agriculture/Community Development and 4-H Livestock role. Together, Karen and Tim have built a strong working relationship and plan to continue growing the impact of Extension programs and resources in the county.



**MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY™
EXTENSION**

**"The Extension job
has truly been a
blessing. I have enjoyed
rekindling long-standing
relationships while
also building new
connections with a
younger generation."**

*- Tim Fondren, Mississippi
State University Extension*



As the Agriculture and Natural Resource (ANR) Extension Agent, Tim provides leadership in developing, implementing, and evaluating educational programs focused on agriculture and natural resources, working closely with county citizens, stakeholders, and partner agencies. His role also includes leadership of the 4-H Livestock program, support for other 4-H Youth Development efforts, and collaboration with Extension agents, faculty, and specialists statewide to deliver effective, impactful programming.

Speed Planting

Planting season often comes with pressure to cover as many acres as possible in a narrow window of ideal conditions. To help Mississippi Delta producers make informed decisions, Mississippi State University Extension partnered with Garry Makamson Farms and other cooperators on a commercial-scale planter speed study to evaluate how planting speed influences soybean performance in real-world field conditions.

The study used replicated 24-row strip trials in producer fields with standard equipment to evaluate how increasing planter speed affects soybean stand establishment and yield at field scale. Results showed that, with modern planter technology, higher planting speeds did not significantly reduce yields, even though spacing and population uniformity may change. This research is part of MSU Extension's broader effort to test precision agriculture technologies on commercial farms and provide practical, unbiased guidance to producers.



CONNIE'S CORNER:



Fruit Salad

- 1 can of Peach Lucky Leaf pie filling
- 1 can pineapple chunks
- 1 can mandarin oranges
- 2-3 Bananas - sliced
- 6-8 Strawberries - sliced
- 2 or 3 Kiwi - sliced

Drain the canned fruit and wash the fresh fruit and place it on paper towels to dry completely. Hull and slice the strawberries. Combine the fruit in a large bowl and pour the peach pie filling over. Stir gently to combine. Refrigerate for about an hour and serve chilled.

A QUOTE FROM COTTON:



“My dad use to say ‘you have to have a strong back and a weak mind to farm’ Looks like things have changed!”

NEW HOBBIES FOR GARRY



Since Karen has taken over the day-to-day farm operations, Garry has found himself with a little more free time — and he's been making the most of it by enjoying time on his skid steer. From cutting limbs and clearing paths in overgrown areas to tackling projects that need a little extra equipment power, he's always glad to put his skills to good use. If you've got a project that could use an extra set of skilled hands and some equipment muscle, give Garry a call. He'd be happy to help out!

MISSISSIPPI MASTER IRRIGATOR



This year, we completed The Mississippi Master Irrigator Program, offered through MSU Extension. The goal of this program is to equip producers with the knowledge they need to make the right irrigation water management decisions that improve water use efficiency and on-farm profitability. We received in-depth instruction on key topics, including irrigation water management, soil health, agronomics, irrigation systems and equipment maintenance, as well as policy and farm management considerations.

The program combines online learning, in-person classroom instruction, peer-to-peer exchange with fellow participants and instructors, and hands-on field demonstrations. Online modules and classroom sessions are led by MSU Extension specialists and other professionals with subject-matter expertise. Upon completion of the in-person training requirements, participants who successfully complete the program earn Mississippi Master Irrigator certification.

GRAIN BIN SAFETY

Garry Makamson Farms had the opportunity to participate in grain bin safety training at Delta Grain, sponsored by Farm Bureau. Several of our team members took part in hands-on demonstrations, including entering the grain simulator to experience proper rescue techniques for someone engulfed in



a grain bin. This valuable training reinforced the importance of safety awareness and preparedness, helping ensure our team is equipped to respond effectively in real-life situations.

MAKING ROOM FOR NEW OFFICES



We also took on the project of cleaning out a neglected former employee's house, which was originally used as an office for the cotton gin. After nearly 20 years of neglect, it needed serious cleaning and updates. We are thankful our guys did not shy away from getting down and dirty on this project and put in the work to refresh the space so it could be used again, giving us a functional office right at the grain bin.