

FARMERS COOPERATIVE

FARMING NEWS

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Good Deeds, Good Ideas

Ring Around the Hay

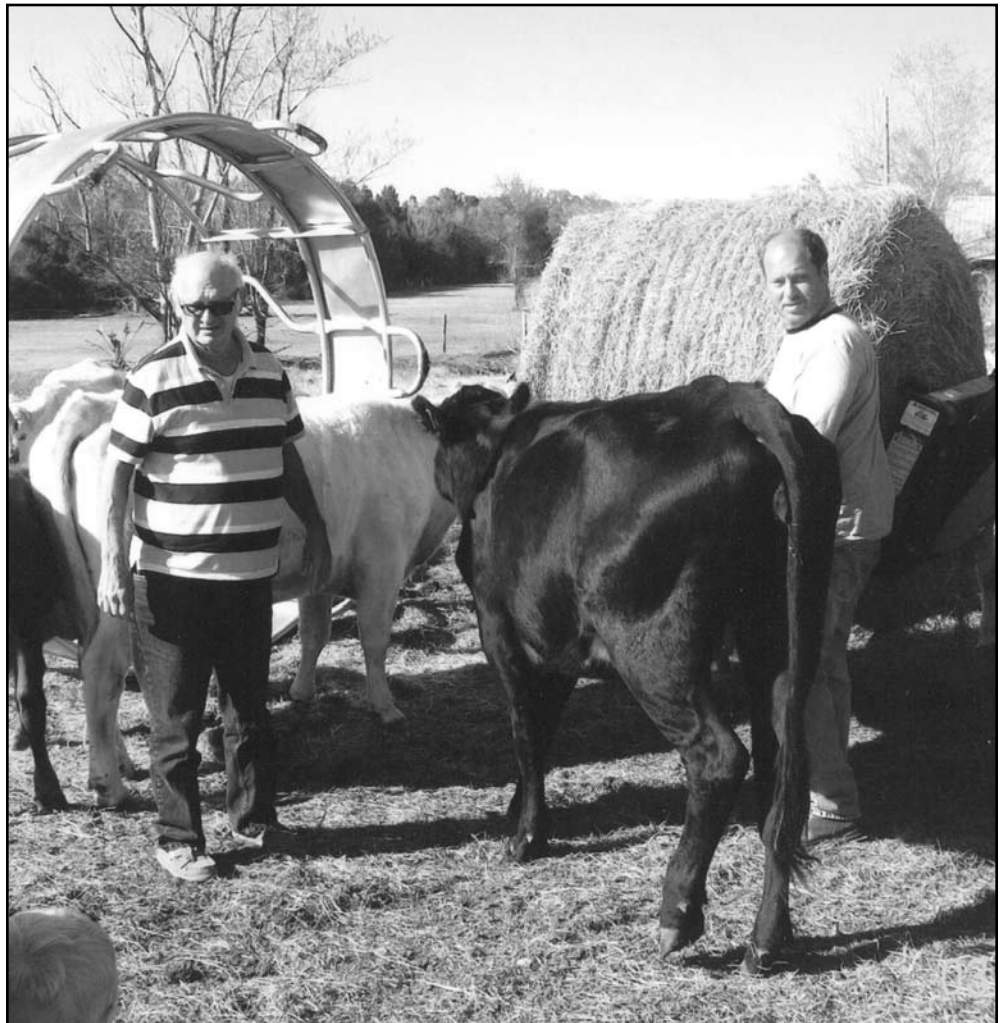
By Pauline Fletcher Cogdill

As a young man, Charles Hardy Keller was fascinated with farming. In 1980 he and his wife, Kathleen, decided they would buy farmland and make their dream of becoming farmers a reality.

Just about the time they had given up on finding their farm, a Land Bank representative showed the Kellers a farm in Perry, Florida. Kathleen immediately said, "This is our place." So in August 1980, the Kellers moved from Woodville to Perry and began their poultry broiler operation.

SHORTLY AFTER the Kellers moved into their farm home, they met the best neighbors anybody could have. Forrest and Betty Connell taught them a lot about farming. In fact, the Connells brought the Kellers to Farmers Cooperative in Live Oak where they met Frank Ross and Robert Sapp. Although Mr. Ross and Mr. Connell passed away several years ago, Charles fondly remembers their sage advice that helped make his farming successful.

From 1980 to 1981 Gold Kist supplied their broilers, and in 1981 the Kellers started growing broilers for Strain Poultry. The Kellers were in the top three growers



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Charles Hardy Keller and son, John Browning.

Ring Around the Hay Makes Cents

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category for seven years and in the top 10 growers category for 14 years with Strain Poultry.

Kathleen and their children worked the chicken houses when Charles was working his route as a rural mail carrier. His great grandfather, Hardy Franklin Keller, was also a rural mail carrier. Mr. Keller is such an authentic individual with a very generous heart.

BACK IN THE DAYS when postal regulations were not so strict, Charles would do special things for his customers. For example, one Labor Day holiday when he and his family traveled to North Carolina, he purchased 10 bushels of apples and distributed one to each of his customers with a printed note, "Compliments of your rural mail carrier and his wife... fresh picked apples from the mountains." One lady told him if he would bring enough apples she would bake him a pie. It's little incidents in Charles' life that still put a smile on his face.

The Storm of the Century also known as the 1993 Superstorm or the No-Name Hurricane made its appearance in March 1993. It was a storm of massive destruction, destroying lives and property. It was a heart breaking time when the Kellers lost their poultry houses as well as the farrow-

ing houses and anything else in the path of the hurricane.

After the storm, the Kellers started truck farming and raising dairy cows. Young granddaughter, Jacqueline Turner, would go to Townsend's Livestock Sales with her grandfather to sell cows, and it was at this time that Jacqueline decided she wanted to be a rancher. She bought her first heifer at the age of 6 and has been taking care of calves and saving her money since that time.

IN ADDITION TO his herd of cows, Charles grows turnip greens, mustard greens, and some of the best green onions you will ever eat. What he doesn't give away, he sells to Winn Dixie.

If you want a first hand endorsement on the hay ring feeders Farmers Cooperative has in stock, Charles is a good person to talk to about the savings he has already experienced with his new hay ring feeder. Instead of feeding one and one-half round rolls of hay a day, he now feeds one round roll of hay every other day. Charles said he took Robert Sapp's advice (as he has done for over 30 years) and got the hay ring feeder with the metal on the bottom of the hay ring feeder thereby conserving hay and still keeping the cows happy.

Charles and Kathleen have a blended

family of four children. Son Charles Hardy, Jr. is a computer specialist for CitiBank in Jacksonville. He and his wife, Tina, have two daughters, Jennifer and Katie, and one granddaughter, Malynn.

Son John Browning is the proud father of Crystal and Ashley and the proud grandfather of Alisa.

DAUGHTER TONIA claims all bragging rights to Jacqueline and Nicholas.

Daughter Kathy Morgan is married to Phillip, and they have a son, Michael, and a daughter, Victoria.

Kathleen continues to work a full-time job for the state of Florida. Charles still enjoys working full-time as a farmer and especially delights in the grandchildren helping feed the calves and learning how to produce good food to eat.

Farmers Cooperative, Inc. is successful in large part because of loyal, cooperative members just like Charles and Kathleen Keller, and we are happy to report, grandpa has introduced granddaughter, Jacqueline, to the Cooperative.

Kathleen would like to share a family favorite recipe, grape custard pie. It takes a little time to prepare, but it's well worth your time spent making it. (See the recipe on the next page.)



Charles Hardy Keller with son, John Browning (left), grandson, Nicholas Kinsey, and granddaughter, Jacqueline Turner.



Charles Hardy Keller and grandson, Nicholas Kinsey.

Grape Custard Pie

1 cup precooked grape hulls (scuppernon or muscadines)
1 cup sugar
1 TBSP flour
1 egg
butter or margarine

Extract the pulp from the grapes. The pulp could be set aside to use for making jam or jelly once you strain the pulp. Cook grape hulls for a few minutes.

Mix sugar and flour, add to beaten egg. Add grape hulls and pour into regular pastry crust. Dot with butter and sprinkle with nutmeg. Cover with lattice pastry and dot generously with butter or margarine.

Bake at 375 degrees for 25 to 30 minutes. May be served without any topping or topped with ice cream or whipped cream.

Customer's Kind Words

To All It May Concern,

I would like to thank the whole Farmers Co-op team from the top to the bottom for professional service, courtesies, and very helpful service.

Your team monitors our L P Gas at our chicken houses better than myself. Just recently, the Co-op Gas Department called me before I could call them to inventory my gas and they delivered the gas before we ran out.

Also, we bought a wall space heater at the Co-op and Mr. Carl installed it the very next morning professionally, and it works perfect. Also, Mr. Sapp makes calls to me to see about fertilizer and cow feed supplement on time every time.

Ms. Nancy and Ms. Pauline have helped us with financing. Even though I did not mention every one's name, I do mean every person that works with us at the Farmers Co-op is very much appreciated.

Best respect,
Raymond Fletcher, Jr.
A very happy customer

For the Past Quarter

NEW CO-OP MEMBERS

LIVE OAK STORE

Byron Coleman, Jasper
James B. Shober, Mayo
Charles Provau, Live Oak
Jimmie E. Ratliff, Jasper
Kathy Lumpkin, Live Oak
Robert T. Wooster, Sarasota
Sara & Justin Wallace, Live Oak
Michael Sayer, Live Oak
Johnny & Cheryl Recca, Jensen Beach
Virginia E. Wright, Lake City
Joel Niblack, Ft. White
Rick & Ann Fortney, Clearwater
Philip & Noella Roberts, O'Brien
Dr. Lee Woodruff, O'Brien
Jerry Salsberry, O'Brien
Kim Chewning, Lake City
Parris Beegle, Live Oak
Kenneth Burnett, Live Oak
Vziel Rodriguez, Live Oak
Robert Wood, Lake City
Steve & Cathy Sarnago, Dunedin
James B. Culp, Alachua
Ted Bourdon, Live Oak
Ed Decie, Wells, Maine
New Grove Missionary Baptist,
Branford
Timmy & Lisa Tutten, Madison
W. Jeff McFadden, Jasper
John Hinrichs, Lake City
Daniel Olson, Live Oak
Tony Demoya, Miami
Charles O. Hendricks, Tucson, AZ
John D. Reed, Live Oak

Linda Helsel, Live Oak
James C. Barbale, Lake City
Wilson D. Hart, Mayo
Sue Noe, Live Oak
Ethel Stephens, Live oak
Gerald Schramer, Lee
Nancy Layden, Live Oak
Vivian Searcy, Lee
Roberto Lopez, Live Oak
William Jann, Wellborn
Greg D. Wall, McAlpin
Kimberly Jandle, Live Oak
James T. Bargar, Lake City
David Ginn, Jasper
David P. Johnson, Live Oak
Marie Lee, Live Oak
Debroah McLeroy, Live Oak
Jay Leonard, Jasper
Paul K. Swilley, Sr., Live Oak
Bruce R. Evans, Pinetta
Angela D. McClellan, Wellborn
Kristy N. Roberts, Live Oak
Kaylee M. Roberts, Live Oak
Robert E. Rushing, O'Brien
Michael Tillison, Live Oak
Billy R. Sadler, Live Oak
Ronald D. Marshall, O'Brien
Shelby Rayburn, Live Oak
Deborah Crawford, Live Oak
Derek Barber, Lake City
Frank Richards, III, Jasper
Linnard Twiggs, Live Oak
Power for Living Ministry, Lake City
Charles Farmer, Live Oak
Robert & Sharon Shaw, Live Oak

Jennifer Perez, Live Oak
Garry Du'Bois, Jacksonville
Jules LaBrie, Lake City
Harold Smith, Lake City
Annia Dominguez, Lee
Leslie Stanziani, McAlpin
Alfreda Williams, Wellborn
Jean S. Osborne, Delaware, OH
Brandon Hysell, Lake City
JRP Pine Straw, LLC, McAlpin
Patrick Bryant, Live Oak
Kathaleen M. Taylor, Live Oak
Anthony Fernandez, Miami
Marcy Box, Wellborn
Mary Beaird, Lake City
Julie Verdegem, Live Oak
Virginia Prince, Live Oak
Joseph G. Wallmeyer, Mayo
Kitty Greene, Live Oak
Paul E. Copeland, Jacksonville
W. W. Williams, Live Oak
Daniel Cole, Live Oak
Andrew C. Rigdon, Day
Power Country, Inc., Lake City
Elaine S. Fletcher, Live Oak

MADISON STORE

Madison New Memberships
Jimmy Driggers, Jasper
George Houck, Perry
Tommy McDonald, Greenville
Elizabeth Davis, Madison
Willie M. Warren, Madison
Barbara A. Moore, Lee

Jessica Wise, Madison
James Brown, Jr., Madison
Jennifer Higgins, Madison
Chuck Kuhl, Lee
William H. Hunter, White Springs
Robbie L. Henderson, Pinetta
Elizabeth Ann Wood, Madison
Jimmie Gray, Madison
John F. Hudson, Madison
Cecil Sistrunk, Perry
Debora D. Tuten, Lee
Kenneth Johnson, Ocala
George Hern, Ray City, GA
Michael D. Blue, Perry
Chris Cavaliere, Pinetta
Virginia M. Harvey, Madison
Mary Studstill, Madison
Norman & Diana Mattingly, Jasper
Tom & Carole Zimmerly, Madison
Little Richard Crowell, Kissimmee
Annie B. Ragans, Madison
Cindy Vees, Madison
Rocky Springs M.B. Church, Madison
Matthew Combes, Madison
Edward A. Boyajian, Madison
Ruthanne F. Gardner, Madison
Michael B. Reeves, Seminole
Edgar E. Proctor, Jr., OpaLocka
Buchanan/Moore Farms, Pinetta
Craig Grant/Caboodle Ranch, Lee
Stan Graham, Quitman, GA
William R. Causey, Perry
George West, Greenville
Marie Evans, Pinetta
Louis W. Shaw, Shady Grove

Livestock Show & Sale

Madison County held their 56th Annual North Florida Livestock & Show Sale Feb. 15-18, 2010, at the Madison County Fair Grounds.

Farmers Cooperative of Madison and Madison County Farm Bureau teamed up to purchase livestock from several deserving FFA and 4-H participants: Cyler Lambert of Hamilton County and, from Madison County, Eryn Alderman, Ragan Stewart, and Clay Sapp.



Back row, left to right: Glenn King and Freddie Pitts, representing Farm Bureau. Front row: Jimmy King, representing Farm Bureau, Clay Sapp, Madison County FFA and Eddie Curl, Madison Manager, Farmers Cooperative. Photo courtesy of Emerald Greene, Greene Publishing, Inc.

WHERE ARE THESE FOLKS?

Farmers Cooperative is trying to locate the following people whose patronage refund checks have been returned from the U.S. Postal Service as "undeliverable":

Richard Plain, Lee
 John T Earl, Branford
 W D Premorel, Madison
 Howard Wilson Folsom, Mayo
 Girlie J Ragans, Madison
 George A Green, Jr., Live Oak
 Avery P Ragans, Pinetta
 Moses Lee Jones, Live Oak

Big Buck Winner



By Jerry Owens

Long time Cooperative member Coye F. Webb, Jr. (better known as Lin Webb) was the big winner of Farmers Cooperative's 2nd Annual Big Buck Contest recently held at our Madison Store.

Crop Specialist Jerry Owens presented a \$500.00 gift certificate to Lin after the Boone & Crockett scoring system had been completed. Dwayne Mobley, F.W.C. Wildlife Officer scored the antlers at 141

and one-eighth inches.

Lin is married to Shannon Bass and they have a son, Blake. Lin has been a timber harvester for 23 years, Shannon is a radiology supervisor at Madison County Memorial Hospital, and Blake attends Madison County High School, home of the Cowboys.

The entire family are members of the National Wild Turkey Federation, and they are all avid hunters.

Farming News

www.farmerscooperative.org

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Todd Lawrence, Publisher & Editor

Co-op Directors

Kenneth Dasher, McAlpin (Suwannee County)
 Ted Henderson, Live Oak (Suwannee County)
 Eddy Roberts, O'Brien (Suwannee County)
 E. Richard Terry, Madison (Madison County)
 Archie Davis, Lee (Madison County)
 Tim Steichen, Wellborn (Suwannee County)
 John C. Webb, Lee (Madison County)
 Walter K. Brown (Suwannee County)
 Kevin Morgan (Hamilton County)
 Kenneth McLeod (Madison County)
 Jeff Lee (Suwannee County)

Employee Appreciation



General Manager Todd Lawrence (right in both pictures) presented certificates of appreciation for years of service to Kelli Hallman, 10 years (left photo), Rusty Green, 15 years (not pictured), and Jerry Upchurch, 15 years (right photo).