

FARMERS COOPERATIVE

FARMING NEWS

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35 Years Spreading Fertilizer

Custom Operator Jerry Taylor Retires

By Todd Lawrence and Pauline Fletcher Cogdill

For over 35 years Jerry Taylor has been a familiar face to Farmers Cooperative patrons. Recently, Jerry decided he would retire from his custom fertilizer spreading business to pursue other interests.

It was a decision that did not come easy for him because of the many friendships he has developed through the years. Jerry feels that having the respect and friendship of Farmers Cooperative patrons is to be honored and treasured.

Jerry is a Suwannee County native, and a 1968 graduate of Suwannee High School. In fact, when he and Sylvia Musgrove were attending Suwannee High School they became high school sweethearts and were married on June 12, 1970.

In 1978 Sylvia and Jerry were blessed with the birth of their daughter, Adrienne. Adrienne is a graduate of Suwannee High School and the University of Florida. She teaches third grade at Suwannee Elementary School.

Jerry attended North Florida Community College for a brief period of time, but felt as though he was best suited for the work force rather than college. Musgrove Construction Company was his first employer, followed by the Florida Division of Forestry, and finally with Paul Parramore, owner of Cannon and Wolfe Lumber Company in Live Oak.

However, Jerry had a desire to own and operate his own business, and since he knew more about farming than any other profession, he decided to begin a custom combining business in the summer of 1976.

In the fall of 1977, Co-op General Manager Sam Weeks recruited Jerry to become the Co-op's contractor of tobacco bed fumigation as well as custom application of liquid nitrogen. Jerry recalls Farmers Cooperative Assistant Manager Edward



Jerry Taylor stands beside his custom spreading truck. Jerry, after over 35 years of serving Farmers Cooperative customers by spreading fertilizer, has retired.

Koon giving him many tips and advice as how to be effective and successful in the custom application business. "I am very thankful for the opportunity that Sam gave me to become a part

Continued on next page

Jerry Taylor Spread Custom Fertilizer

Continued from Page 1

of the Co-op team. It truly was a great experience and one that I will always remember," said Jerry.

Many of you know Jerry as a Suwannee County School Board Member. Ask any parent for whom he's assisted in resolving a school-related issue and they will tell you how dedicated he is to the job entrusted to him.

"Being a school board member has taught me so much in the past 16 years; not only to be sympathetic but very empathetic with each individual person and their problem," said Jerry. "I am very appreciative for the privilege afforded me to serve as an advocate for the children and parents of our school system."

Perhaps Jerry's experiences as a Sunday School teacher for over 35 years has given him some insight into dealing with unique situations. As a young, 21-year-old deacon at Westwood Baptist Church,

he learned how to obtain the confidence of people of all ages and especially to instill in young people the consequences and rewards of their choices. In fact, he acknowledges the mentoring of Sam Weeks and his mentoring helping to shape him into the person he is today.

As to the success of Farmers Cooperative, Jerry commented, "With the leadership of Sam Weeks, Todd Lawrence and Farmers Cooperative Board of Directors, the Co-op has grown and flourished. Their vision for the future helped to create the respect and trust our patrons have in Farmers Cooperative."

Jerry continued, "The formula for success in any business is established by the integrity of the employees who create the respect and trust upon which their customers can depend."

It was probably a bittersweet day when Jerry took one final ride in the spreader truck, which he recently sold to Larry Warner, so that he could share some

tips and advice regarding the spreader business.

Jerry has spread fertilizer for Mrs. Frances Broom for over 12 years, and Mrs. Broom appreciates his quality of work. Mrs. Broom gave the following compliment to Jerry: "I really will miss Jerry Taylor fertilizing my farm because he knows which gate to go in and always remembers on which pasture to apply the fertilizer. He also fertilizes my yard and takes complete care of my order."

Mrs. Sara Jane Moore echoes that sentiment about Jerry. "Jerry was always dependable and fair in the price he charged for spreading," Mrs. Moore said.

General Manager Todd Lawrence commented that he will miss Jerry's loyalty and promptness given to an order of spreading fertilizer for Co-op patrons. "Jerry has given many years of outstanding service to our members."

We at Farmers Co-op want to wish Jerry the very best in his future endeavors.

Warner Takes Over Fertilizer Spreading

By Todd Lawrence and Pauline Fletcher Cogdill

Larry Warner, a Florida native and Suwannee High School graduate and a fifth generation farmer in Suwannee County, is farming the land where his parents, Jack and Joyce Warner, farmed for over 50 years.

Larry purchased Jerry Taylor's spreader truck and has been going full speed ahead! You've heard that old expression, "Turn your hat around and get moving." The truth of it is Larry has hardly had time to get his hat on before heading to a farm to spread fertilizer. We've been blessed with some rain and our loyal patrons are calling for fertilizer, so Larry is keeping those wheels rolling.

Larry and Lynn have a blended family of their adult children and four grandchildren.

Son Sean Poston and his wife, Terry, live in Homosassa Springs, Fla., with their two daughters, Brooke Amanda and Abigail. Sean is employed with Progress Energy, and is one of the youngest chiefs that has worked for Progress Energy. Terry enjoys being a full-time mom.

Son Shane Everette Poston is a Pastor and Christian Artist who recently recorded a Christian hymn album titled *Then and Now* under his artist name: Shane Everette Band. His mom is proud to tell you, "Shane is very devoted to his faith."

Daughter Cindy and her husband, Keith, are middle school teachers in Orlando. The Hilyers' two daughters, Kayla Nicole and MacKenzie Faith, keep them very busy with their activities.

Lynn has been a cosmetologist for about 36 years, and except for a few of her special clients, most of her work now consists of taking care of the family farm by maintaining good accounting records and, yes, driving the tractor when necessary.

Larry is certainly no stranger to many of our patrons since he has sprayed chemicals for Farmers Cooperative for 24 years. Larry just wants our Cooperative Family to know that he is grateful for the opportunity to serve our farmers, and he plans on making his operation as seamless as possible to do the same outstanding job that Jerry Taylor has done for many years.



Larry Warner has recently become the custom fertilizer spreader for Farmers Cooperative.

For the Past Quarter

NEW CO-OP MEMBERS

LIVE OAK STORE

John Palmisano, Satellite Beach
Susan K. Bishop, Live Oak
David A Harvey, Live Oak
Phyllis Fekula, Jacksonville
Arthur M Hinton, Live Oak
Patti Hart, Live Oak
Mary Helen Mergenthaler, Live Oak
Chad M Flowers, Mayo
Darlene B Brown, McAlpin
Dominick Ramirez, Live Oak
Betty J. Brown, Wellborn
E A Mack, Live Oak
Karen A Thomas, Dowling Park
Wanda Baker, Live Oak
Pamela Andrews, Lake City
Eunice A Underwood, Live Oak
Joe Shirah, Live Oak
Frances A Landers, Lake City
Julie Norris, O'Brien
Joe Brooker, Live Oak
Ron Bussiere, Wellborn
Judith Hull, Lake City
John D. Kerce, Lake City
Linda Cox, Wellborn
Loren D Kewanimptewa, Live Oak
Andy Riotto, Jr., Lake City
Emilio Rojas Palma, Lake City
Erman Bird, Branford

Donn Welden, White Springs
James J Cartwright, Branford
John C Fry, Live Oak
Joseph Sabba, O'Brien
Clarence D Adkinson, Live Oak
Vincenzo C Robinson, Live Oak
John W Gill, Live Oak
Aaron Simque, Lake City
Ken Culp, Live Oak
Dennis Rooy, Tamarac
Windy Register, Lake City
Ann Vogt, Live Oak
Amy Martinez, Live Oak
John May, Live Oak
Arvell Trammell, Live Oak
Sandra B Rhoden, Live Oak
Matthew Hagan, Live Oak
Lewis Hurst, Norman Park, GA
Amelia G Kurtz, Live Oak
Suzanne Walker, Satellite Beach
Ida Tucker, Jasper
Katrina Slaughter, Perry
Kenny Allen, Live Oak
Samuel L McClain, Jennings
Maurice Sims, Live Oak
Joseph F Chamberlain, Live Oak
Larry Cochrane, Sanderson
Frank Wilson, Glen St. Mary
Mary Williamson, Jasper
Shatae Lewis, Live Oak

Erston L Kirby, Lake City
Leavon Robinson, Live Oak
Dan Roan, Live Oak
Charity Glackin, Lake City
Mary Wilkes, O'Brien
Jeffrey D Arzet, McAlpin
Charles Dugdale, Live Oak
Tony Opitz, Jennings
William Salisbury, Jasper
Sunshine Dairy, O'Brien
Robert Usina, Madison
Ryan Turman, Live Oak
Joyce Enola Hill, Live Oak
Warren Doyle, Live Oak
Sonia Marquez, Lake City
Northern Lights Prop., Maint, Jasper
Hubert E Ashley, McAlpin
Patricia T Cottrell, Port Richey
John F Dunn, Live Oak
Frederick Ryan Bennett, Jasper
Robert Broten, Live Oak
Tresley Marecheay, Brooklyn NY

MADISON STORE

Allie Jean LaValle, Perry
Billy Mosley, Mayo
Marshall Haynes, Madison
David J. Arnold, Greenville
Willie J. McClain, Lee
Katherine Rigdon, Pinetta
Wally Davis, Madison
Doyle D. Glass, Lee
Trey Fausett, Pinetta
Louella Lamb, Madison
Rick & Shirley Murphy, Pinetta
David C. Nusbickel, Pinetta
Heather Glavich, Jennings
A. Wayne Howell, Perry
Willie Brown, Lee
Sara Castillo, Madison
Jamie Lane, Madison
Dale Farabee, Port St. Lucie, FL
Shaw Farms, Madison
Wendy Linton, Lee
Sharlot Keen, Live Oak
Mark Fowler, Lamont, FL
Clyde G. Tuggle, Tampa
Art R. Braswell, Greenville
Matthew Hovland, Greenville
Paul Adkins, Greenville
Greg Watts, Pinetta
Duane Randall, Madison

'Big Buck' Contest Winners

By Barry Long

The results are final for the 4th Annual Big Buck contest at Farmers Cooperative. On Feb. 4, officers from the Florida Wildlife Commission came to the Live Oak Co-op store to measure potential winners for the contest. There was a good turnout of hunters and spectators to witness the event.

First place went to Daniel Studstill. Jerry Owens, Madison Crop Specialist, presented a \$500 gift card to Studstill of Madison who had a net score of 142 4/8.

Second place and a \$200 gift card went to James Johnson of Live Oak who had a net score of 140 1/8.

Third place and a gift card of \$100 went to Kenneth Pettrey of Live Oak who had a net score of 123 7/8.



**Farmers
Cooperative
4th Annual Big
Buck contest
first place
winner Daniel**

**Studstill (right) is presented
with a \$500 gift certificate
by Jerry Owens, Madison
Crop Specialist.**



Buy Plants, Win Passes

Farmers Cooperative has several varieties of tomatoes, eggplants, squash, cucumbers, bell peppers, hot peppers and sweet peppers in stock, and now is the time to plant.

Bonnie Plants and Farmers Cooperative want to give you a chance to win two free general admission weekend passes to the Suwannee River Jam, May 2-5, 2012, at the Spirit of Suwannee Music Park. These free weekend passes are valued at \$170.00.

Each time you come in and purchase Bonnie vegetable plants, you will be eligible to register to win these weekend passes.

Madison County

Annual Livestock Show and Sale

Madison County held their 58th Annual North Florida Livestock Show & Sale Feb. 20–23 at the Madison County Agriculture Center. Farmers Cooperative of Madison received a

special 25 year recognition plaque as a buyer from North Florida Livestock Show and Sale, Inc., which was presented by President Ed Sapp of North Florida Livestock Show and Sale, Inc.



President Ed Sapp of North Florida Livestock Show and Sale, Inc. (right) presents Eddie Curl, manager of Madison's Farmers Cooperative, with a plaque recognizing Madison's Farmers Co-op's 25 years of buyer service at the Annual Livestock Show and Sale.



Eddie Curl, manager of Madison's Farmers Cooperative, congratulates FFA student Cody Davis. Farmers Cooperative purchased Cody's pig.

Farming News

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Ted Henderson, Live Oak (Suwannee County)

Eddy Roberts, O'Brien (Suwannee County)

E. Richard Terry, Madison (Madison County)

William T. Carte (Suwannee 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)



Manager Eddie Curl of Madison's Farmer's Cooperative (far left) congratulates FFA student Ashley Walden (front). Farmers Cooperative and Madison County Farm Bureau purchased Ashley's pig. Also pictured from left to right are Freddie Pitts, Glen King and Jimmy King, all representing Madison Farm Bureau.