

Pontotoc Progress

Know your farmer: Matthew Poe

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Matthew and his wife Kyla and son Harrison enjoy a moment in their cotton field. last year was his first time to grow cotton.

This week I will continue the “Know Your Farmer” series of articles. The “Know Your Farmer” series of articles are intended to inform the citizens of Pontotoc County about the variety of crops grown here and the farmers that produce them. Today’s featured farmer is Mathew Poe.

It's all about family according to Matthew Poe when talking about his farming career. Poe, a young Pontotoc County farmer, is a row cropper and a cattle farmer. He works alongside his father Larry Poe and his uncle Mike Poe.

But it's not about the acreage or even the crops produced, it's about time spent with family. It is about being the next generation of farmers that is working the same land that he remembers his father and uncle working when he was a young boy.

Poe has 175 head of cattle, as well as farms 1,000 acres that includes cotton, corn, and soybeans. Last year was a first for cotton farming for Poe who says he is always open for new farming opportunities.

While visiting with Matthew to get information for this article, he was insistent that this article be about the family affair of farming of which he is a part. He said he doesn't remember a time when he didn't want to farm. Before he was big enough to help and drive tractors, he remembers taking his toy tractors to the farm to play with while watching family members farm the land.

Matthew's parents Larry & Sherrie, as well as his wife Kayla and son Harrison have been very supportive giving him guidance, leadership, and the family connection to the farm. He says he will remember stories, friends, and families far longer than he will remember which crops he grew.

Poe's favorite parts of farming include running the combine during harvest and watching things come together regarding decisions that are made long before the first seed was planted. The challenges he faces have to do with things that are really beyond his control including weather and market prices.

His future goals include growing his farm to include more acres and higher yields as well as growing and improving his cattle herd.

Matthew also uses trucking as a way to enhance his farming and to bring in additional income. His trucking operation includes eight trucks and four dump trucks which are used for trucking grain, dirt, and rock.

He is a certified installer for water treatment systems and is a certified water operator for the Troy Water Association.

Poe is involved in Farm Bureau and other activities that promote farm life. He is the Pontotoc County Chair of the Farm Bureau Young Farmer and Rancher Committee, using it as a bridge to get young people to be a part of Farm Bureau. Kayla and Mathew also just won the 2019 Farm Bureau Young Farmer and Rancher Achievement award for Mississippi in February. Being a part of the Young Farmer and Rancher group has provided opportunities for travel to Washington, DC, Pittsburg, New Orleans, and Nashville. He has been involved in fundraising to raise funds for agriculture and veterinary students at Mississippi State University.

Through his efforts on the farm and with Farm Bureau, Poe is passionate about being a part of the future of agriculture.