

Written Profile



Farm: Finger Farm

Location: Shepherd, TX

Date of Origination: 1914

Industry Sector(s): Hay Production

“The reputation of the family, our dealing with our customer and the quality of the product will be the biggest things to help continue our growth”. The Finger family has the utmost pride in what they are able to accomplish as a family rooted in agriculture. The strong bonds they have developed through being involved in the industry have resulted in three generations of togetherness and commitment to one another. Alan Finger, grandchild of the farm’s original owner, shares how this century farm has contributed to **Agriculture’s Lasting Heritage**.

The Finger Family Farm dates back to 1914 when it was bought by Alan’s grandfather, Sam. At the start, the farm was merely 167 acres and has since expanded to over 600 acres. Nobody can recall what the farm was originally used for, but Alan says his father used it primarily for cattle. Until about nine years ago, the cattle were kept on the land and managed by his mother, Bernice, as well as a family friend. When Alan took over the farm, he decided that the land would be best utilized for producing Jiggs Bermuda horse hay on 88 acres. In addition, a deer management program has been established along with a three acre pond for bass and bluegill fish.

Alan, now 78 years old, still maintains the farm and points to himself as the one who will continue to do so. Because of this, he feels almost disheartened because he is unsure what will become of this 100 year old, rooted tradition of agriculture. “Family members are diversifying their education and types of business interest...I’m not sure what will happen after the third and fourth generation.” But his disheartened feeling doesn’t overshadow his hope for the future. “If a family member stays on the property after his highest level of education, it will continue to grow until he is unable to maintain it.”

His success has been attributed to the technological advances that he has incorporated into his hay farming. “We’ve just installed an irrigation system that should get us through droughts and help increase our production.” The commitment to the farm and the community makes him hopeful that a family member will return to the farm, implement their higher degree of education, and continue to improve the efficiency and productivity of the farm, which has been standing for an entire century.

“The greatest thing that came out of our farm is the creation of family togetherness.” Of six grandchildren, all but one moved to Houston. Regardless, the entire family gathers for holiday weekends to reunite and keep their strong bonds. The ideas of family, commitment, and progress epitomize what **Agriculture’s Lasting Heritage** truly is.