

Marshall Farms, *Okaloosa County*



Marshall Farms leads the way in Okaloosa in the use of technology such as Grid Soil Sampling and GPS-guided planting. They grow cotton and peanuts on over 2100 acres in Okaloosa County. The father and son pair strive to make sound decisions that conserve the natural resources that they use to grow their commodities. They were the one of the first farmers in our county to use



Precision Agriculture to soil sample, fertilize and lime. Because all 2100 acres are managed mainly by just James and Nick, efficiency is of utmost importance. They recently purchased a round bale cotton picker, which saves time and money for the operation. They also use a self-propelled peanut combine to increase efficiency. With just over 2100 acres, the pair has to maximize productivity in order to stay competitive. Nick is a third generation peanut farmer who recently was interviewed in the Southern Peanut Growers' "Growers We Dig: Nick Marshall" video on www.youtube.com.

Improving Agriculture through Extension Involvement

Marshall Farms is always willing to work with Extension and Okaloosa County Farm Bureau to demonstrate agricultural practices to the community through farm tours and agricultural awareness field days. Historically, the farm has been a stop on the Okaloosa Farm Bureau Legislative Farm Tour. In 2010, the Nick Marshall Family was recognized as



the Farm Family of the Year for Okaloosa County. In 2011, they hosted a farm tour for over 60 homeschooled children. During the growing season this year, they are participating in a video project which will follow cotton and peanuts from planting to harvest. They are also opening up their farm for the 2012 Association of Florida Conservation Districts Farm Tour.

Impacting Agriculture in the Northwest District

Marshall Farms is a pillar of our agriculture community. James has been farming in Okaloosa County for over 40 years. They are truly "Opinion Leaders" for extension faculty when attempting to disseminate information to growers. They are respected by their peers, the Farm Bureau and our Extension Office. James was interviewed in late 2011 about the higher price for peanuts. James indicated that in 2012, Marshall Farms would be sticking with their rotation instead of chasing higher prices for peanuts. Nick serves on the Okaloosa County Agriculture Advisory Committee, the Florida Peanut Producers Board of Directors, Okaloosa Farm Bureau Board, the Florida Farm Bureau Peanut Advisory Board, and is being nominated to participate in the Florida Farm Bureau Young Farmers and Ranchers Leadership Group. James serves on the Farm Credit of Northwest Florida Board and the Jay Peanut Farmers Cooperative. ■

James & Nick Marshall *Baker, Florida*

