

Land of His Own- The Tommy Lewis Farm

Jeffery “Tommy” Lewis grew up on a farm helping his parents with the cows and hogs, but never imagined he would own his own farm one day.

“I never dreamed I would own land,” said Tommy. “I grew up dirt poor and thought I would die poor. Daddy farmed growing up, but it was with mules.”

But if there is one thing that Tommy knows, it is that hard work reaps big benefits. He worked long days and long nights on the swing shift at the local Michelin tire plant. And after the noise and stress of his job started wearing on him, he decided to seek the peace and solitude of country living.

In 2007 Tommy took his hard-earned money and purchased 40 acres with a loan from what was then the Federal Land Bank Association of South Alabama. “It feels good to know that I have somewhere I can come and just work the land and not have to think about it. I’m here every day that I’m off of work.”

But Tommy soon realized that keeping up his 40 acres required a little more than dedication. He needed bigger tools to get the job done.

“I went to the Customer Appreciation Dinner, and someone was talking about changing the name to Alabama Ag Credit and what new services would be offered. I had just started my land loan, so the next day I called the local office and asked about getting a tractor loan.”

After shopping interest rates at other local banks, Tommy came back to the lender that helped start his dream of owning his own farm.

“Things are different at Alabama Ag Credit. The folks that work there are down-home folks and are easier to talk to and do business with. They know more about agriculture than other banks. I like that they do

their own appraisals — it reminds me of the folks my daddy dealt with.”

Even before Tommy came back to Alabama Ag Credit he already had the perfect tractor in mind: a 471 Massey Ferguson four-wheel drive front-end loader with a bucket, hay spear and pallet forks.

“Sure beats my old shovel and wheelbarrow!” he says.

Since then Tommy remains hard at work, both at his job and working his land. He’s cleared out the land around the pond, bush-hogged the brush, pushed up shrubs and small trees, and hauled in dirt to work on his road. He’s also leasing out his land to another farmer, who is growing soybeans, watermelon and peanuts on the place.

“This is something I’ve always wanted to do. I love being out in nature and the quietness of the outdoors. Hopefully, one day I’ll have some cows, plant a little grass and build a nice home out here. That is my next dream.”



Tommy Lewis is living his dream of land ownership—thanks to a lot of hard work and a little help from Alabama Ag Credit.