



# Tinker Ridge Farm

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Welcome to the family farm!

In 1959, our parents moved here with their 2 young daughters from a newer 2-bedroom house in Highland Heights that Dad had built to 116 acres of land with a barn, a few outbuildings, and a 1 bedroom “log cabin” with a 2-hole outhouse! I use quotation marks around log cabin because from what I’ve been told it was more like a shanty. Apparently, none of my parent’s family members were happy about the move. Mom says her mom cried and her sister proclaimed that if the termites stopped holding hands the whole place would fall down. In fact, when Mom and Dad bought the farm there was a family living in what is now the swing house. I guess it was in better shape than the “log cabin”.

Luckily, Dad was able to see the potential. This place was his pride and joy, next to his family of course. He built the current house in 1965/66 and they raised 4 daughters here. When asked how he managed the farm with 4 daughters and no sons, he would simply chuckle politely and say, “All of my girls are hard workers.” It is very appropriate that we decided to participate in today’s tour. It is Dad’s birthday; he would have been 91 today.

There was never a dull moment growing up here. Always something to do or get into, lots of family gatherings for work or fun – usually a bit of both. I am so grateful for everything that I learned to appreciate and value as a farm kid. Like Dad, we understand that we are caretakers and stewards of the land and partner with Mother Nature to ensure the vitality of the soil for generations to come.

The farm primarily ran as a cow/calf operation as I was growing up. Slowly we began to diversify and focus more on direct-to-consumer opportunities, and we continue to evolve. We enjoy being a small, diverse, “hands-on” producer. It allows us the flexibility to adapt quickly to changing circumstances. To the casual observer, it appears that we just “tinker” around, aimlessly flitting from one thing to the next: thus, the name Tinker Ridge Farm. Take a closer look and you will discover something totally different.

We are very happy to share our family’s farm with you today and we hope that you enjoy your time here.

Allow 45 minutes for this stop.