



Casson and Ahrman Farm

661 Kenton Station Road

Grants Lick (Alexandria), KY 41001

859-635-5674

Owners-Allan and Peggy Ahrman

The Casson and Ahrman Farm became a reality in the early 1980s when Alan and Peggy Ahrman combined their farming enterprise with Peggy's parents James (Dip) and Mae Casson in Grants Lick. The farm had originally been farmed by Mae's parents Walter and Bertha Smith. Like most farms of that era, this farm was a 125-acre dairy, tobacco, cattle, and grain farm. There was a little bit of everything on the farm including cattle, sheep, chickens, tobacco etc. Dip and Mae moved to the farm in 1960 and continued beef cattle, tobacco, and hay farming. Alan and Peggy built a house on the property in 1975 while continuing to farm in the California and Mentor area.

When the two farms were combined, we started raising more tobacco and increased the number of cattle on the farm. We continued cutting hay across the county to have enough feed for the winter. This required moving equipment across the county and hauling hay back to the farm. During this time period, our three children (Jim, Larry, Jill, and their spouses Jeremiah Sowards and Melissa Ahrman) started working on the farm and all currently live next to the farm. Their children (Sam and Maddie Ahrman and Emma, Lucy, and George Sowards) are now starting to help with the farm work. Jim is currently the most involved in the farm operation and will be the heir apparent to continue the farming tradition into the future.

A fire in 2004 burned up the main barn, five tractors, and numerous other pieces of equipment. Fortunately, all the cattle escaped uninjured. When we rebuilt, we were able to redesign the barn and tobacco/shop area to be more efficient. We now concentrate on improving our grass forages, hay, and beef genetics. We keep 25-30 mature cows and their calves as our main income basis since we quit raising tobacco in 2009.

We are now looking forward to the new freezer beef program and the possibility of purchasing half and whole beef in the future. Over the years we have worked closely with Campbell County Conservation District, Campbell

County Extension Office and NRCS (Natural Resource Conservation Service) to take advantage of funding opportunities to improve the farm.

Some of the projects completed with the help of these organizations include:

- The first stack pad in the county to handle animal waste
- Replacing all the forages in our pastures
- Planting alfalfa and orchard grass for improved hay
- Fencing to allow rotational grazing on pastures Beef genetics for registered bulls
- Improved genetics with the purchase of select heifers
- A new pond to supply clean drinking water in a pasture that had no water The cleaning up of two farm dumps that were used to serve the farm.

There have been many more projects that helped us become more efficient. We are going to point out many of these projects as you walk around our farm. Weather permitting, we will be giving a demonstration on cutting and baling hay. We will demonstrate both square baling and round baling. Thanks for taking the time to stop at our farm and we will try to answer any questions you may have.

Please allow 45-60 minutes for this stop