

LEGACY

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In 1996, Larry Parish, Philip Parish, Chris Hooks and their families joined forces to establish P&H Farms. Spanning across Lyon, Crittenden, Livingston and Caldwell counties, the operation produces row crops and raises beef cattle. The farm cultivates non-GMO white corn, soybeans and wheat. After 21 years of conventional beef production, P&H Farms broadened its operation in 2018 to include a premium American Wagyu beef program as well.

Cali Parish Ross and her younger brother, Rhett Parish, are the sixth generation working to carry on the family business. The Hooks have been farming for five generations now, with Calvin Hooks representing the fifth generation.

"We started out small, and now we are a large-scale operation," Cali said. "My brother is a major part of this, and our partner's son, Calvin, is also a major part of this. We are the three children that are involved. I went to Murray State University and received a bachelor's in agriculture business management and then went and got a master's degree in agriculture economics. I always knew that was what I wanted to do. I have been here full time since March of 2020."

Cali holds a significant role in P&H Farms operations, including accounting and bookkeeping. She also handles government relations, crop insurance and what she refers to as "a little bit of everything." Rhett Parish and Calvin Hooks work out in the field, in the combines, planting crops, working on equipment, working cattle, and the typical day-to-day operations out on the farm. Cali said the three are working to fill the shoes of their fathers, Phillip Parish and Chris Hooks.

Cali said none of them have ever been pressured into continuing the farm, but they decided to stay with it because they love it. Though Cali briefly considered pursuing other agriculture-based avenues during college, she realized working with P&H Farms was not only what she is good at, but what she



ALEXA BLACK | For The Sun

Across the commonwealth, 96.8% of Kentucky farms are family owned, representing the third-highest proportion nationwide, after West Virginia at 97.6% and Tennessee at 97.5%.



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Cali Parish Ross is part of the sixth generation of her family to continue P&H Farms across Lyon, Crittenden, Livingston and Caldwell counties.

enjoys. Cali said she also takes pride in building the family name and continuing with their family's legacy.

"That is what we are all trying to do now is to be successful in the future," Cali said. "Just to learn and make decisions on our own. We want to be better leaders and continue this business on and not be the generation that fails. That obviously comes with pressure, but it also comes with pride and makes me work 10 times harder than I would have in any other situation."

Cali said P&H Farms raises around 1.5 million bushels of non-GMO white corn annually. There is a business built into their operation, called P&H Grain Company, where

they export their own white corn and buy from other local farmers. With soybeans, they grow full-season and double-crop soybeans. They grow roughly half a million bushels of wheat and a little under half a million soybeans annually. The soybeans and wheat are sold at the local riverport. P&H Farms sells around 500 fat calves annually that goes directly into meat production and is consumed locally and throughout the US.

Regarding the USDA data backed study showing family farms are the driving force of agriculture in Kentucky, Cali said she knows many of the area's farm families and has friendships with people who are also carrying on their fam-

ilies' legacies. She said she finds being the youngest generation in family farming to be an important calling.

"It is an honor to get to be a family farm," Cali said. "Some people would look at our farm and say that we're not a family farm since we are a large-scale farm, but we are. I am actively involved in this office daily, so is my dad, my brother Chris, and Calvin. Obviously, we cannot do all of the labor ourselves when you have a farm this size, so of course we hire people to help us with labor. But those people feel like family to us. We have several people who have been with us around 20 years. I think that is what has made us so successful, because if

we did not have good people, we would not be here today."

Though Cali is the sixth generation, she said she has witnessed vast technological advancements in agriculture since her childhood. Her grandfather, for example, would have been farming with mules and horses, whereas today's tractors have the capability to operate themselves. Even in the past six years, she has been learning to navigate advanced technology in seed and the way they crop, such as whether to utilize till or no-till farming.

Cali said her grandfather, Larry Parish, was on the cusp of such advancements in the 1980s; he was one of the few farmers to implement advanced fertility practices and take conservation seriously in the county. Cali said the farm has continued in that same vein, continuing to use minimal and no-till farming.

Looking back on her childhood, Cali said she can't pinpoint one singular moment that inspired her and Rhett to continue the family farm.

"That was just our life," Cali said. "But we wanted to do those things because it was fun to us. There is no particular memory; it was just our whole childhood. I didn't even realize that wasn't normal, that dads didn't just come home and get their kids and take them out on the farm with him. We did that from the very beginning."

FARMER

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has witnessed farmers watch the equity they have built over a lifetime start to fall backward, often relying on paying out of pocket for inputs such as seed, equipment, fertilizer and other chemicals necessary to grow crops.

Of all the inputs rising, Edwards said he has watched nitrogen — used to promote growth, increase yields and enhance quality — increase the most.

"Unfortunately, a lot of our nitrogen is imported from across seas, so we can't really control the cost of our nitrogen," Edwards said. "I'm watching seed costs continually rise from year to year. Fuel cost is still continuing to go up just a little bit. I mean, it just seems like everything that we put into our crop is continuing to rise."

Edwards said many farmers in the region and nationwide, including himself, are feeling uncertainty, especially with the ongoing trade war with China. China was previously a top buyer of U.S. soybeans but stopped purchasing American soybeans in May due to a trade war launched by President Donald Trump.

China resumed pur-

chasing soybeans in October after reaching a trade agreement with the U.S., promising to buy at least 12 million metric tons of American soybeans by the end of February 2026. As of Jan. 20, the country had reached that goal, Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent announced. However, the Associated Press reported that China has increased its soybean purchases from Brazil and Argentina in recent years to diversify

its sources and find the most affordable deals. In 2025, Brazilian beans accounted for more than 70% of China's imports, while the U.S. share was down to 21%, the AP reported, citing World Bank data.

"Right now, at this point, we're not making any money," Edwards said. "No farmer is making a profit right now, unless you're just growing drastic yields, which you can't bank on that every year. I mean, you

gotta' bank on the fact that you're going to have a good solid average year."

He said he has noticed soybean prices drop from \$10.50 to \$10.27 per bushel for fall delivery in September and October and wheat prices drop from \$5.50 to \$5.15 per bushel for fall delivery in September and October.

"It doesn't sound like much, but when you start doing the bushels on what a farmer pro-

duces on soybeans, it's a pretty big hit to the pocketbook," he said. "Every penny matters on the market right now. You can have perfect yields, you know, I can grow 200-bushel corn and 70-bushel beans, if it all works out perfectly, but I'd say at that point you're at a break-even. That's for everything to go perfect, and not everything goes perfectly on a farm, I can tell you that from a firsthand basis."

To improve, he stressed the need for China to continue to fulfill its trade commitments and the importance of reducing commodity oversupply.

"I always try to be that positive guy, and I'm still trying to find that positivity every day, but what keeps me going is knowing that one day it will get better," Edwards expressed. "It can't stay like this forever; farming comes in cycles."

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1/2 Unit Whole Unit

5 lb.	10 lb.	Ground Chuck (1 Lb. Packs)
4 lb.	8 lb.	Chopped Sirloin Patties
4 lb.	8 lb.	Beef Patties
4 lb.	8 lb.	Arm Roast
2.5 lb.	5 lb.	Round Steak
2 lb.	4 lb.	T-Bone Steaks
2.5 lb.	5 lb.	Boneless Top Sirloin Steaks
8 lb.	16 lb.	Boneless Pork Chops
6 lb.	12 lb.	Center Cut Pork Chops
10 lb.	20 lb.	Mixed Cut Chops
11 lb.	22 lb.	First Cut Pork Chops
5 lb.	10 lb.	Ozark Pride Ham
8 lb.	16 lb.	Boneless Pork Loin Roast
8 lb.	16 lb.	Pork Steak or Pork Roast
8 lb.	16 lb.	Pork Cutlets or Pork Patties
10 lb.	20 lb.	Country Style Ribs
4 lb.	8 lb.	Platter Sliced Bacon
7.5 lb.	15 lb.	Pork Sausage
2.5 lb.	5 lb.	Minute Steaks
10 lb.	20 lb.	Whole Fryers or 8-pc Cut-Up Fryers
20 lb.	40 lb.	Chicken Leg Quarters (4 Pk)
5 lb.	10 lb.	Breaded Chicken Strips (5 Lb. Pk.)
5 lb.	10 lb.	Breaded Chicken Patties
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