



**Heavy Hitter Okra, developed by Ron Cook, served as a good revenue stream for the family with Ron had a stroke and had to retire early from teaching.** | PHOTO COURTESY RON COOK

## OKRA

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Trammel, and his two old mules named Rita and Earl,” Cook said. “We used Bill’s old mules and his old horse-drawn implements from the time we moved here, until we bought our first tractor in 2013.”

Another neighbor, George McLaughlin, wanted to start a seed-saving website and asked Cox to write about the new strain of okra Cox was working on. The website, “Green County Seed Savers,” helped get the word out about the okra seeds.

“Within a few months of starting that new thread, a research scientist and geneticist from Bangalore, India, Chandra Sekhara Rao, contacted me by phone, requesting [me to] ship him a few hundred seeds of my new strain of okra, so he could begin conducting genetic studies on them,” Cox said.

The following season, a horticulture professor at Oklahoma State University, Dr. Lynn Brandenberger contacted Cox, asking if he could use a few of the seeds to conduct a study. As time went on, word of Cox’s okra spread and others asked to be allowed to study the seed.

In 2010, the family farm, Dry Creek Farm, became the first certified organic farm in Cherokee County, and the 13th farm in Oklahoma registered as such.

“During those years, our family began selling fresh, garden-picked, ‘Heavy Hitter Okra,’ along with several other organic certified vegetables, to Oasis Health Food Store in Tahlequah,” Cox said. “Within a few months, we also began doing business with nine local restaurants, as well as the Tahlequah Farmers’ Market.”

Tahlequah City Hospital contracted



**Earl the mule, owned and worked by Bill Trammel, Ron Cook’s neighbor, was used in the beginning to plow Cook’s fields, until they could afford a tractor.** | PHOTO COURTESY RON COOK



**Ron Cook, right, and Hank Ballard work on harvesting okra seeds.** | PHOTO COURTESY RON COOK

to purchase okra from Dry Creek Farm, and the farm soon had to drop most of the other customers due to the size of the hospital’s contract. About the time the hospital’s name changed to Northeastern Health System, the contract was dropped with Cox and the hospital staff began purchasing vegetables from “big box store” food trucks and stopped purchasing vegetables from local farmers, Cox said.

“Hank Ballard [in his mid-80s] has been instrumental in getting our seeds processed each year, to the point that we literally couldn’t have done it without him,” Cox said. “Every autumn, Hank shows up here on our farm to help shell mature, dried okra pods, for days on end.”

The size of the dried pods, toughness of the fibers broken by hand, and the number of seed chambers, determines the strenuousness of the season.

“There have been years where Hank and I have spent 10 hours per day, sitting around in folding chairs, spinning tales, drinking copious amounts of hot coffee, and cracking open piles of dried okra pods as high as our chairs are tall,” Cox said. “We would do that every day of the week but Sunday, for as many as 30 days straight.”

Jennifer Stevens is married to Eddie Glenn, a former Tahlequah Daily Press newsroom staffer and current freelance

writer who teaches at the University of Arkansas. Stevens said she doesn’t have a lot to say about a lot of things, but actually sings the praises of okra.

“I generally forget it exists, but it can be one of the best veggies, if you avoid the bigger, woodier ones and treat it right,” Stevens said. “In the past, I’ve cut it up and tossed around in a cast iron pan with olive oil, some soy sauce, and loads of grilled garlic until it was good and toasty. The girls, who were skeptical, loved it as much as I did.”

Recently she tried another preparation, patting it dry after chopping, tossed with olive oil, plenty of sea salt, and a splash of white vinegar. She said an internet recipe indicated the vinegar would cut the sliminess, and it worked.

“I oven-roasted it at 425 degrees for 30 minutes,” Stevens said. “We four snarfed it down like it was popcorn,” Stevens said. “Eddie tells me the only things that made his childhood miserable were okra and poke sallet, and that my okra was the only okra [he] ever had that didn’t stimulate a gag reflex.”

She said she hasn’t fed Eddie poke sallet yet.

### Learn more

To find out more information about okra and read other seed hybridization articles, go to [seedsavingnetwork.proboards.com/board/11/okra](http://seedsavingnetwork.proboards.com/board/11/okra).

## Notice of Final Settlement

Tabitha Jewel Baker House, 282 Canyon Dr, London, KY 40741 Executrix of the estate of Arch Gibbs, deceased, filed a final settlement with the Laurel District Court on 01/07/2025.

Scott Gully, PO Box 762, Williamsburg, KY 40769, Executor of the estate of Sharon Kay Hickey, deceased, filed a final settlement with the Laurel District Court on 01/23/2025.

## London Truck Stop, LLC declares intention(s) to apply for a NQ Retail Malt Beverage Package license(s)

London Truck Stop, LLC Mailing address 326 Barbourville Rd, London, KY 40744 hereby declares intention(s) to apply for a NQ Retail Malt Beverage Package license(s) no later than February 27, 2026, The business to be licensed will be located at 311 West Daniel Boone Parkway, London, Kentucky, 40741

The organizers are as follows: Ashvinkumar Patel, 170 McWhorter Rd, London, KY 40701

Vinay Patel, 52 Thompson Pointer Rd Unit #4, London, KY 40741

40741 Pankaj Patel, 1833 Mallard Drive, London, KY 40741  
Monika D Patel, 46 Saddlebrook Garden Homes Rd, London, KY 40744  
Pratik Patel, 460 N McWhorter St. London, KY 40741

Any person may protest the approval of the license by writing the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control, 500 Mero Street 2 NE 33, Frankfort, KY 40601, within 30 days of the date of this legal publication.

## Notice of Appointment of Probate

On this day, February 16, 2026, Lora Treadway, P.O. Box 421, Jenkins, KY 41537, was appointed Executrix of the estate of Jeffery Reed Banks, deceased. Any person having claims for or against the said estate should promptly submit them in writing to the above.

On this day, February 16, 2026, Patrick Morgan Jr., 2128 Cold Hill Road, London, KY 40741, was appointed Executor of the estate of Tennie Morgan, deceased. Any person having claims for or against the said estate should promptly submit them in writing to the above.

Derek Shawn Hines, 104 N Second St, Stanford KY 40484, was appointed Administrator of the estate of Paul J Carson, deceased. Any person having claims for or against the said estate should promptly submit them in writing to the above.

Shannon Farmer Johnson, 258 Victory Rd, East Bernstadt, KY 40729, was appointed Administratrix of the estate of Bennie William Johnson, deceased. Any person having claims for or against the said estate should promptly submit them in writing to the above.

Michael Anthony Sturgill and Becky Jo Sturgill, 720 Middleground way, London, KY 40744, was appointed Co-Executors of the estate of Betty Jo Sturgill, deceased. Any person having claims for or against the said estate should promptly submit them in writing to the above.

Jacob Scott Burkhart, 2213 Sinking Creek Rd, London, KY 40741, was appointed Executor of the estate of Jacob Burkhart, deceased. Any person having claims for or against the said estate should promptly submit them in writing to the above.

Bruce Dewayne House, 256 Bakersfield Lane, London, KY 40741, was appointed Administrator of the estate of Grace Elizabeth Stuffle, deceased. Any person having claims for or against the said estate should promptly submit them in writing to the above.

On this day, February 09, 2026, Douglas W. Brown, 103 Coloney Street, Corbin, KY 40701, was appointed Executor of the estate of Eric Scott Brown, deceased. Any person having claims for or against the said estate should promptly submit them in writing to the above.

On this day, February 09, 2026, Lisa Mills, 110 Arnett Road W #4 London, KY 40741, was appointed Executor of the estate of Margaret J. Miller, deceased. Any person having claims for or against the said estate should promptly submit them in writing to the above.

Jennifer Studdard, 26 Auger Springs Rd, Corbin, KY 40701, was appointed Administratrix of the estate of Lyle Studdard, deceased. Any person having claims for or against the said estate should promptly submit them in writing to the above.

Matthew Colby Johnson, 63 Rush Lane, London, KY 40741, and Megan Courtney Carrier, 182 Brandon Dr, Corbin, KY

40701, was appointed Co-Executors of the estate of Marvin Ray Johnson, deceased. Any person having claims for or against the said estate should promptly submit them in writing to the above.

Patricia Jenene Singleton, 1381 Laurel Lake Rd, North, London, KY 40744, was appointed Executrix of the estate of Herman Patrick Mobley, deceased. Any person having claims for or against the said estate should promptly submit them in writing to the above.

Glenda Feltner, and Terry Harrison, London, KY 40741, was appointed as Co-Executor of said estate of Bitha Harrison, deceased. Any person having claims for or against the said estate should promptly submit them in writing to the above.

Jeffrey Pennington, 599 Millcreek Rd, Corbin, KY 40701, was appointed Executor of the estate of Corbin Pennington, Jr, deceased. Any person having claims for or against the said estate should promptly submit them in writing to the above.

William Allen, 214 Oneal Rd, London, KY 40701 & Cynthia Storm, 167 Oneal Rd, London, KY 40741 were appointed Co-Executors of the Estate of Bonnie Allen, dece. Any person having claims for or against the said estate should promptly submit them in writing to the above.

Lois Ann McWhorter, 1061 East 4th St, London, KY 40741, was appointed as Executrix of said estate of Charles E McWhorter, deceased. Any person having claims for or against the said estate should promptly submit them in writing to the above.

Sharlene Elizabeth Prabhu 6104 Willow Springs Rd, Springfield IL, 62712, was appointed Executrix of the estate of Sharlette Rush Hensley, deceased. Any person having claims for or against the said estate should promptly submit them in writing to the above.

Billy Brock Jr, 1272 North Highway 1223, Corbin, KY 40701, and Shane Brock, 329 Hampton Lane, Corbin, KY 40701, were appointed Co-Executors of the estate of Bill Brock, deceased. Any person having claims for or against the said estate should promptly submit them in writing to the above.

January 12, 2026, Kelvin Bundy of 715 Golden Eagle Dr. London, KY was appointed Executor of the estate of Homer Lee Bundy, deceased. Any person having claims for or against the said estate should promptly submit them in writing to the above.

February 2, 2026, Kristie C. Hale of 484 London Dock Rd, London, KY was appointed Executrix of the estate of Delbert Hale, deceased. Any person having claims for or against the said estate should promptly submit them in writing to the above.