

FARMERS COOPERATIVE

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Matriarch of Cherry Lake

From Miami to Madison County

By Pauline Fletcher Cogdill

In the spring of 1935 a beautiful fair haired 9-year-old girl, Wanda, and her family moved from Miami to Cherry Lake, FL. Truman L. Walker and Ethel Walker didn't realize how much hard work they were in store for with their son, T. L., and daughter, Wanda, when they relocated in Cherry Lake.



Wanda Brown

Their move from Miami was a result of the WPA Cherry Lake Rehabilitation Project. Several families living in Tampa, Jacksonville and Miami moved to this 15,000 acre tract called Cherry Lake Farms.

HUNDREDS OF Florida-owned banks and corporations had failed, and the unemployment rate was at an all time high. President Roosevelt knew he had to help the country with his "New Deal" and put people back to work.

The project consisted of building 100 houses and giving people the opportunity to buy 40 acres of land and a house for \$2,500. The Walkers arrived in Cherry Lake in the spring of 1936 and by August they were able to move into one of the houses. These fat lightered houses were built quickly and families were able to move in and begin working growing vegetables so there would be plenty to eat.

The Rehabilitation Project provided people with much needed homes and jobs. The community became self sufficient with canning plants, their own water and electric company, hospital, post office, furniture store and their own chicken houses, and in 1937 Graham Wheeler taught many of them how to grow tobacco.

Work was not anything new for Wanda. After all, she was picking straw-

berries in Miami when she was four years old. She recalls, "Back then everybody worked at doing something." They had their own school and she fondly remembers her fifth grade teacher, J. P. Johnson, and the many lessons she taught her. School was held west of Cherry Lake at the crossroads. At that time many people lived in the barracks that were built for temporary housing as well as used for many facilities they worked in.

CANE GRINDING was one of the social events in Wanda's youth, and that's where she met the love of her life, Walter Kenneth Brown, Sr., and as she says, the rest is history. The Browns were blessed with three wonderful children.

For 25 years Kenneth and Wanda did farm trucking. They grew egg plants, squash, and okra. The Browns grew the crop, packaged it and then took it to the Farmers Market in Thomasville, Ga. She packed so many egg plants that today she can still remember 26 No. 1 egg plants filled a hamper.

Wanda is very proud of all her children and brags about their special talents. She said, "Son Walter would have been a great teacher; however, after one year of teaching in Madison, he was offered

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How Big are Your Antlers?

By Barry Long

Florida Wildlife Commission will be at Farmers Cooperative in Live Oak Feb. 2 from 9:00 am until 12:00 noon to score your antlers. This is free to anyone who would like to know the Boone and Crocket score of their antlers.

Any antlers scoring 100 B & C points for a typical rack and 125 B & C points for non-typical rack will make its place in the Florida Buck Registry. This will also be the official scoring used to decide the winners of the Farmers Cooperative Big Buck Contest.



Wanda Brown

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a job at Groover Tractor Co., which was later sold to Gordon Ford Tractor, and he worked there from 1969 until 2009 when he retired." He always had a way with tractors and farm equipment as a young child. In fact, "he was driving a tractor when he was six years old," Wanda recalls.

Walter K. Brown, Jr. is married to Debbie Jerkins, and they have a blended family of five children and seven grandchildren.

Daughter, Margaret Ann, is Jerry Miller's widow who lives in West Plains, MO. She has one daughter, two sons and nine grandchildren. Margaret Ann is a welder who works for SMI in West Plains, building trailers that are shipped overseas for military use. Wanda and son, Walter, recently visited Margaret Ann and family.

The Brown's son, Edward, has two

Special Trailer for FFA Events



Pictured (l-r) are: Matthew Cantrell, State Secretary; Todd Lawrence, Farmers Cooperative, Inc.; Clayton Willis, FFA State President; Clay Sapp, FFA National President; and Gary Bartley, Executive Director for Florida FFA Foundation, Inc.

Farmers Cooperative is proud to have partnered with CoBank to purchase a new "Mobile Event Unit" for the Florida FFA Association.

The 16-foot trailer unit will be used at Career Development Events, Leadership conferences, the Florida

State Fair, and other events for event check-in and registration. In addition, the trailer will serve as a rolling billboard for not only agricultural education and FFA, but for the Leadership Training Center, Farmers Cooperative and CoBank.

children and one grandchild. Edward works for the correction system, and helps his mother on her farm, especially when it's time to take the cows to market. In fact, Wanda and neighbors helped her get a load of cattle to market this week. Wanda is still not allergic to work ... she enjoys it.

MRS. BROWN HAS the distinction of being the matriarch of her community in Cherry Lake. It is not uncommon for young men and young women to call her from their new homes from different parts of the country to let her know they are doing okay and in general checking up on her. She has a special knack of making cakes for memorable occasions for young people, like winning a contest, or graduating or something they go the extra mile to do. You can be sure if Wanda's neighbors do not see her out and about, they are going to check on her.

Wanda loves fresh flowers, and she tends to all of her speciality flowers like

the Filipino lilies she has in her yard. Every Sunday, she makes a fresh cut flower arrangement for her church. She said silk flowers are pretty, but fresh cut flowers just add an extra touch to the church. Larry Townsend has sunflowers and will tell Wanda when you want some of these sunflowers just let me know and I'll bring them to you, and he does. Wanda said she enjoys listening to her pastor play the piano at Harmony Baptist Church because he plays by ear and always adds that something extra special to his music.

THIS TALENTED lady works the polls at voting time, plays the piano for her church when they need her to, has a garden every year, works her cattle, and until the last few years made all of her clothing as well as her daughter's, and on Dec. 8, 2012, she celebrated her 86th birthday. She cherishes her family and good neighbors, and it is no surprise how much they love her, too.

Sapp Elected National FFA President

From an early age, Madison County student Clay Sapp knew he was a good communicator and teacher, but it wasn't until he took some agricultural education classes and joined FFA that he discovered how he wanted to channel those two skills.

"I want to teach high school agricultural education and then obtain a master's degree in educational leadership," he said. "My goal is to become a school administrator so I can encourage classroom innovation and motivate students to become better scholars and young people."

IN OCTOBER, at the 85th National FFA Convention & Expo in Indianapolis, Sapp was elected National FFA president for 2012-13. For the next year, Clay will travel more than 100,000 miles across the

country to engage top leaders in business, government and education. As President, Clay will lead personal growth and leadership training seminars for FFA as well as help set policies that will guide the future of FFA and promote agricultural literacy.

"As a national FFA President, it will be my mission to activate change and growth in the National FFA Organization," he said. "I plan to develop strong relationships, be a champion of FFA and agricultural education and seek new ways to strengthen student experiences within FFA." In order to serve as National FFA President, Clay will take a year off from his studies at the University of Florida where he is pursuing a major in agricultural education and communication.

CLAY SAPP is the son

of Ed and Gina Sapp; his father was his FFA advisor in high school and currently is still the FFA advisor at Madison County High School.

Farmers Cooperative is proud of Clay. To learn more about the National FFA Organization, you can go to www.FFA.org.



Clay Sapp

Annual Meeting

Farmers Cooperative's 66th Annual Membership Meeting was held at First Baptist Church in Live Oak on Oct. 6, 2012. Following registration, the meeting started at 10:00 a.m.

General Manager Todd Lawrence reported annual sales volume of \$10,739,644 with a net loss of \$196,653. Lawrence reported that to say this was a challenging year would certainly be an understatement. Our Cooperative mirrors the economy throughout the United States with one of the warmest winters we've had for several decades. Despite our loss this year, our auditor pointed out that we have a strong Balance Sheet with a current ratio of 2.69 to 1 and over \$4 million in assets.

General Manager Lawrence then discussed Farmers Cooperative's participation in the Bonnie 3rd Grade Cabbage Program. He also talked about ways that Farmers Cooperative helps sponsor activities for FFA and 4-H activities.

After the business meeting, several door prizes were awarded to the members attending the meeting.

For the Past Quarter

NEW CO-OP MEMBERS

LIVE OAK STORE

Steve Kent, O'Brien
 Larry D. Holcomb, Jasper
 Linda Brim, Live Oak
 Andy & Ramona Jordan, Live Oak
 Victoria Clement, Mayo
 Arthur Lambert, Wellborn
 Henrietta Mandrell, Live Oak
 Gene Paulk, Live Oak
 Phillip Boyd, Live Oak
 Justin Cathcart, Live Oak
 Chris Ramsey, Live Oak
 James P. Middleton, Live Oak
 Loraine Amos, Live Oak
 Wanda Naylor, Lake City
 Lynn Turner, Live Oak
 Michelle Kilmire, McAlpin
 Ron Concoby, Orlando
 Susan Brooks, Lake City
 Constance L. Hunter, Jasper
 Dillon Johnson, Live Oak
 Michael Brandt, Lake City
 Hugh D. Martin, Bell
 Karen Fletcher, Jasper
 John C. Bracewell, III, Jasper
 George Blow, III, Live Oak

Hermon Brinkley, Lake City
 Gail Deas, Jasper
 Barbara Swann, Live Oak
 James A. Norris, Jasper
 Lisa Waters, Orlando
 Kristina Matthew, Live Oak
 Janice Gaudern, Odessa
 Donna Johnson, Mayo
 Narciso (Cisco) Escobar, Live Oak
 Maddie Carte, Live Oak
 James Caraway, Wellborn
 Conrado I. Rodriguez, Okeechobee
 Hallie J Walker, Live Oak
 Westwood Christian School, Inc., Live Oak
 Cathy J Reed, Live Oak
 Van Aernam Farms, Branford
 Laura Shepherd, Tampa
 Shanae Christian, Live Oak
 Brent Whitman, Madison
 Toni Headley, Live Oak
 Eugina Cline, Live Oak
 Timothy McCabe, Live Oak
 Candy O'Neal, Live Oak
 Mary Jane Anderson Lyon, Live Oak
 Kim Heitzman, Lake City
 Charleston Thompkins, Live Oak
 James B. Johnson, Lake City

Jimmie & Susan Farabee, Live Oak
 John W. Pettrey, Jr., McAlpin
 Finey Martin Christie, Glen St Mary
 Allin Butcher, Live Oak
 Alex Nollman, Oldsmark
 Mona J. Schmidt, Live Oak
 James E. Folk, Jennings
 Dave Larsen, Tampa
 Jennifer Snell, Crystal Beach
 Sylvester Bryant, Live Oak
 Amber Mayhen, Live Oak
 Emily Tucker, Live Oak

MADISON STORE

Wilkes Brothers, Jasper
 Shirley A. Eggers, Lee
 Austin Leslein, Pinetta
 Janice D Hill, Madison
 United Pine Straw, Monticello
 Daisy Dukes Everhart, Lee
 Valisha Chitwood, Greenville
 Preston Wheaton, Madison
 Mike Wagers, Melbourne
 Betty J Wilon, Fen Park
 Pat Opitz, Jennings
 Jimmy Townsend, Monticello

Russell D Moses, Jacksonville
 Matthew Craig, Belle Isle
 Janet O'Donell, Lee
 Robert King, Pinetta
 Augustus D Aikens, Madison
 Scott Prine, Mayo
 Garland Ray Hill, Monticello
 Denny Thomas, Madison
 Ruben Bennett, Jr., Lamont
 Nelson & Romano DeLoach, Lee
 Joseph Davis, Greenville
 Sharon Dejonge, Lee
 Gary Wells, Perry
 Derrick B Pullens, Madison
 Louis W Driggers, Madison
 Terrell Smith, Perry
 Robert Lee Robinson, Madison
 Leroy Sherman, Pinetta
 Nicholas Cherry, Madison
 James R Taylor, Perry
 Blue Springs Ag, Lee
 Dorothy & Thomas Brabham, Lee
 Patty Regner, Monticello
 A E Brost, Lee
 Alton L Lee, Madison
 Edward Vollertsen, Monticello
 Florida United Methodist Childrens
 Home, Enterprise
 Albert L Stokes, Valdosta, GA
 Sheila Martin, Pinetta
 Kristen Lake Properties, Davenport
 Daryl Brown, Eneco
 Roger Kinard, Lee

Co-op Service Awards



The tenure of Co-op employees is recognized in 5-year increments. This year's awards went to (back row, l to r) Daryl Linton (10 yrs), Brian McDonald (5 yrs), Barry Long (5 yrs), Ronald Hewiett (15 yrs), Don Aue (25 yrs), (front row, l to r) Melissa McCook (5 yrs), Nancy McCall (25 yrs), Hallie J. Smith (20 yrs), and (not pictured) Timmy Tuten (5 yrs).



Ted Henderson, a Co-op director, is checking new equipment at Shennadoah Dairy, a program participant. For more information, contact Farmers Cooperative or go online to www.agpropane.com/FEED.

Advance Deposit

Our 5% advance deposit program will be available through Jan. 31, 2013. For our patrons who are not familiar with the Co-op's 5% advance deposit program, we will offer a 5% discount on fertilizer, seed, and chemicals when you deposit a cash advance during the month of January 2013.

The 5% discount does not apply, however, to equipment construction contracts.

When you have decided just how much money you will need to spend at the Cooperative for the calendar year 2013, please stop by your Co-op at Live Oak or Madison and we will be happy to assist you with your farming needs.

Farming News

www.farmerscooperative.org

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Todd Lawrence, Publisher & Editor

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 Ted Henderson, Live Oak (Suwannee County)
 Eddy Roberts, O'Brien (Suwannee County)
 E. Richard Terry, Madison (Madison County)
 William T. Carte (Suwannee County)
 Tim Steichen, Wellborn (Suwannee County)
 John C. Webb, Lee (Madison County)
 Walter K. Brown (Suwannee County)
 Kevin Morgan (Hamilton County)
 Kenneth McLeod (Madison County)
 Jeff Lee (Suwannee County)

Propane Financial Incentives

By Todd Lawrence

If you are considering a new irrigation motor or grain dryer, check with Farmers Cooperative about incentives offered by the Propane Education and Research Council Farm Incentive program. This program offers financial incentives in exchange for recording performance data of the equipment being used. These incentives range from \$1,000 to \$5,000 depending on the type of equipment.

What is Your Soil PH?

With the rising cost of fertilizer, it will be beneficial to correct the PH on your farm. Using the table below, you can see the dollar benefit of making sure your soil has the correct PH. The example used is a blended fertilizer costing \$500.00 per ton. Applied at a rate of 300 Lbs. per acre or a cost of \$74.96 per acre. With a PH of 4.5 you would be losing \$53.47 per acre.

To help you with your PH needs Farmers Cooperative is offering the fol-

lowing specials on dolomite: Kilibrew 20 ton load and spread at \$25.00 per ton, and tail dumped 44 tons and spread at \$23.00 per ton. Prices are good through Jan. 31, 2013.

Call us today for your dolomite needs or to schedule a soil sample for your farm at (386) 362-1459. Soil samples on five acres or more are \$20.00.

Now is the "time to lime" to get your crop or pasture started off right in the spring.

Limestone Makes Fertilizer Work Fertilizer Efficiency Goes Up as Soil Acids Go Down

SOIL ACIDITY	NITROGEN	PHOSPHATE	POTASH	FERTILIZER WASTED	\$\$ LOSS PER ACRE
Extremely acid 4.5 pH	30%	23%	33%	71.34%	\$53.47
Very Strong Acid 5.0 pH	53%	34%	52%	53.67%	\$40.23
Strong Acid 5.5 pH	77%	48%	77%	32.69%	\$24.50
Medium Acid 6.0 pH	89%	52%	100%	19.67%	\$14.74
Neutral 7.0 pH	100%	100%	100%	0%	\$0.00

Correcting soil acidity by the use of lime is the foundation of a good soil fertility program.