



After Hours: Eric Simpson

Everyone has a hobby, don't they? First Class Lineman Eric Simpson's, is farming.

Growing up, Eric and his older brothers had horses and ponies, during which time, Eric developed compassion for animals.

This turned into a farming enterprise dealing with the breeding, raising, renting, sale and butchering of grass-fed cattle.

At 19 years-old he started farming with four cow/calf pairs and one bull. Now, he has 95 brood cows, eight bulls, and calves, which are either added to the herd, sold or sent to be processed. Eric also rents out his breeder bulls to other farmers who might need them, and purchases many of the offspring.

Each day is different for Eric, because you never know what can change. Monday through Friday he works at the Cooperative. Then, when he gets home, work continues on the farm until dark.

"You check on the cattle, survey the pasture where they are, and perform fence maintenance as needed."

Weekends he might be moving cattle and Sunday (fun days), he and his wife, Tara, take daughter, Kerigan, out to see her favorite animals, the moo moos.

Eric also has a business providing high-quality beef.



The cattle are taken to McLamb's Abattoir in Benson for processing into stew beef, roast and hamburger under the name of High Standard Meat Company.

"It's a better quality meat at a lower price," said Eric. "It's a safe product for families because we don't use steroids and we use minimal antibiotics."

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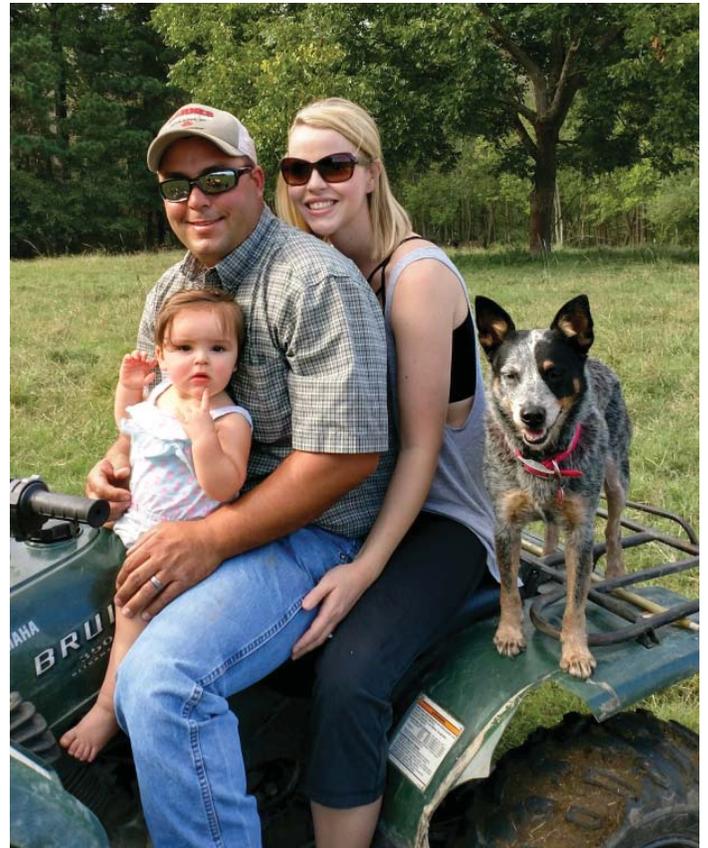
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Beside the cattle, Eric and his family also grow small grain, which consists of wheat and soybeans. Once harvested, he bales the wheat straw.

Farming is therapy for Eric, he loves to see the hard work pay off. He enjoys meeting new people and forming new relationships, and he feels that farming and seeing the process from start to finish will help instill stronger values in his daughter.



Seen above is hay being cut and baled on the farm.



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