

Rooted in Faith, Family, and Forage

How Acres of Grace Farms Thrives with AgCentral Co-op

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In the rolling hills of Tennessee, **Acres of Grace Farms** stands as a testament to how deep family roots and modern innovation can intertwine to grow something extraordinary. What began as a family operation on land owned since the 1930s has evolved into a multifaceted agricultural enterprise—encompassing livestock, row crops, agritourism, and a suite of innovative sister companies that turn sawmill byproducts into premium soil mixes and mulches. At the center of it all is a family guided by stewardship, quality, and faith. And helping to power their growth from the ground up is a vital partnership with AgCentral Co-op’s Glasgow, Kentucky location.

A Legacy Grown from the Ground Up

“I’ve farmed my entire life,” Nick Patterson, owner of Acres of Grace Farms, says. Originally from Alabama, he grew up surrounded by the rhythms of farm life—cattle, hay, and long days outdoors. After completing both his undergraduate and veterinary studies at Auburn University, he moved to Celina, Tennessee, to practice veterinary medicine.

It was there that he met his wife, April Smith, after she brought an injured basset hound into his clinic. The two were married just a year later, and Nick soon became deeply involved in April’s family farm and their growing network of family businesses—laying the foundation for what would become a highly diversified agricultural and entrepreneurial operation.

The family’s land—held since the 1930s—has grown into a hub of activity that mirrors the diversity and resilience of rural America. Today, the operation includes 400 mama cows, 600 acres of row crops, and a thriving agritourism business that draws visitors for weddings, seasonal marketplaces, and a choreographed, agriculture-themed Christmas light show.

Agriculture isn’t just their livelihood; it’s the heartbeat of their community. From hosting local events to creating products that nurture soil health, Acres of Grace Farms has become a living classroom in sustainable, community-driven agriculture.

From Mulch to Markets: Innovation in Every Field

Beyond cattle and crops, the family has built an impressive network of related enterprises designed to create a circular, sustainable economy. Companies like Barky Beaver Mulch & Soil, Inc. transform sawmill byproducts from area mills into premium mulch and soil blends distributed across the region. Their flagship product—Mulch Mary’s Mix, named after a beloved family member—has developed a loyal following among homeowners, landscapers, and nurseries for its exceptional growing performance and consistency.

Their compost and soil amendments are tailored to improve soil biology, encouraging microbial activity and healthier plant growth. One commercial nursery buys up to 18 tractor-trailer loads per week of their product—proof that Acres of Grace Farms has found its niche by combining quality, consistency, and authenticity.

The family’s business portfolio also includes Honest Abe Log Homes, a nationally recognized log home manufacturer, along with Eco-Panels of Tennessee, a company producing high-efficiency wall and roof panels used to build energy-efficient homes. In fact, the first Department of Energy-certified “Zero Energy Ready” home in the state was constructed using their materials.

The family’s entrepreneurial spirit doesn’t stop there—they also manage logistics in-house with their own trucking and fabrication shop. Every venture feeds into the next, creating a holistic, vertically integrated ecosystem that keeps value local and operations sustainable.

The Turning Point: Finding the Right Equipment Partner

Even with all that innovation, equipment is the backbone of any successful farm. The Acres of Grace Farms operation once relied heavily on other machinery while farming row crops around Bowling Green, Kentucky. But as their focus shifted more toward cattle and forage operations closer to home, they began looking for a different kind of partner—one that understood the nuances of a diversified livestock and forage farm.

That’s when AgCentral Co-op in Glasgow, KY entered the picture.

“Being from Tennessee, AgCentral has always been a name I recognized,” Nick recalls. “I’d see them at cattlemen’s meetings and knew they were focused on forage and cattle operations, not just row crops. One day I saw that they had a location in Glasgow and thought, ‘Why does that say AgCentral Kentucky?’ The rest is history.”

Their first purchase from the Glasgow store was a Trioliet mixer, model 2000—a twin-screw feed mixer ideal for managing nutrition and efficiency in their cattle herd. “It was their service that sold me,” he explains. “They were close by, knew what they were talking about, and focused on the kind of farming we actually do.”

That first transaction began a partnership that quickly expanded. In the four years since, Acres of Grace Farms has acquired a fleet of Claas machinery through AgCentral, including Aerion 660 and Axion 880 tractors, as well as a Claas hay baler that the owner calls “the best hay baler I’ve ever had.”

The addition of AgCentral’s front and rear mowers revolutionized their hay operation. “Used to, we’d run two mowers—two tractors, two people,” he explains. “Now, one setup covers the same ground. We can mow 26 feet at a time, condition as we go, and send one person to do something else productive.”

Those conditioners—rotating fingers that crimp and break up forage as it’s cut—have been a game changer, drastically improving drying times and forage quality. “Anybody can go out and make a bad bale of hay,” he says with a grin. “We’re trying not to have those. We’re selling forage, not just hay. Quality matters.”

The AgCentral Advantage

For Acres of Grace, AgCentral Co-op has become more than an equipment supplier—it’s a trusted ally in business growth and efficiency. The owner credits the Glasgow team’s expertise, accessibility, and understanding of livestock producers as key reasons for staying loyal.

“AgCentral is about forage and cattle,” he notes. “They’re not trying to sell me a 350-horsepower tractor and a 16-row planter. AgCentral gets it.”

That difference in focus means better recommendations, less downtime, and equipment that’s truly suited to their operation’s needs. Whether it’s leasing tractors, sourcing hay tools, or troubleshooting machinery, AgCentral’s Glasgow staff has provided responsive, relationship-driven service that keeps the farm running efficiently.

Shared Values and Community Commitment

At its core, the partnership between Acres of Grace Farms and AgCentral Co-op thrives because both organizations share the same values—family, service, and community.

For Acres of Grace, that mindset fits perfectly. Every facet of their business—whether recycling sawmill waste, building homes, hosting local markets, or opening their farm gates for weddings and educational experiences—reflects a belief that agriculture should build people up, not just profit margins.

*Their collaboration with AgCentral allows them to focus on **what they do best: raising healthy animals, producing high-quality forage, and strengthening their local economy.***

Looking Ahead

As Acres of Grace Farms continues to expand its reach—through new product lines, partnerships, and agritourism experiences—the relationship with AgCentral will remain a cornerstone of their success.

“It’s rare to find people who not only sell you equipment but care about how it’s helping your farm,” he says. “That’s what we have with AgCentral. They’re not just a vendor—they’re part of our operation.”

From farming and forage to homes, soil, and community experiences, Acres of Grace Farms represents more than just agriculture—it’s a reflection of a family committed to stewardship, innovation, and building something meaningful together. What started with deep roots in the land has grown into a network of businesses that support not only their family, but their community and customers across the region.

