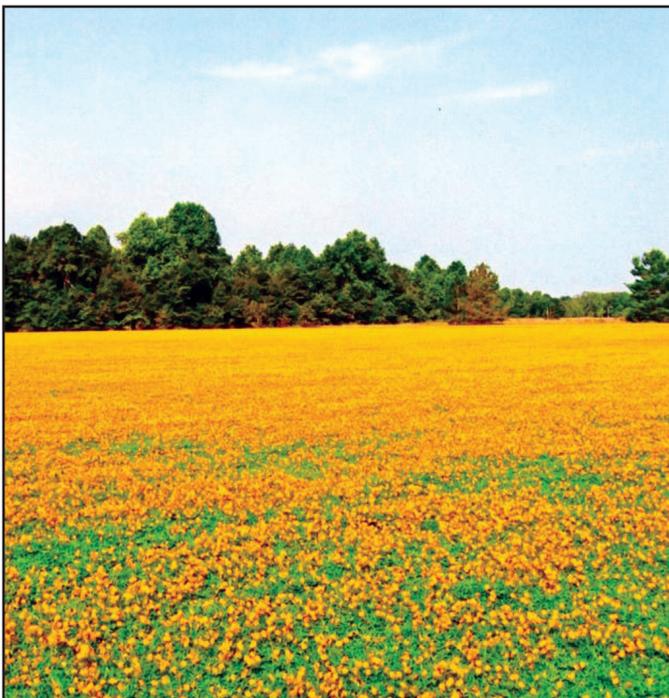


Harmony Farm, *Calhoun County*



Throughout their 52 year marriage, Rodger and Marcia Price have had diverse and interesting agricultural ventures. From each experience they learned different farming skills, and into each endeavor they have integrated their own innovations. In Calhoun County, between 1993 and 2006, the Prices successfully grew a muscadine vineyard (using 7 varieties, for fresh fruit and wine, in 24 rows, equaling 6 miles total length), a fruit orchard (pear, plum, nectarine, peach, persimmon, and apple), and Vertigro System strawberries. Currently, they grow 24 acres of perennial peanuts. Many of their innovations include building needed tools by customizing equipment they already had. For example, some of these improvised tools included a boom-mounted hedge trimmer to prune the vineyard at ground level, a custom tractor-mounted rake to groom the vineyard rows, a blower/mister directed-spray pesticide applicator, a custom grape sorting/packing device, the use of Vertigro components to grow strawberries, and a computer controlled, 12-zone, automated irrigation system. All were

designed and built by Rodger and Marcia. Each piece of equipment was necessary to efficiently grow their crops, manage pests and disease, and make harvesting, storing, and marketing cost-effective. Their produce was marketed via wholesale, u-pick, and local farmer markets. Currently the 24 acres of perennial peanuts are meticulously managed by Rodger and Marcia, and baled for hay by a neighboring farmer.

Improving Agriculture through Extension Involvement

In 2003 the Prices were honored as Calhoun County Extension's Outstanding Farm Family because of their land stewardship, dedication to agriculture, and dedication to community. They eagerly promote awareness and appreciation of agriculture via their many hours of agricultural and environmental community service. When their vineyard was operational, they coordinated, taught, and participated in educational workshops with both Calhoun County Extension and Florida A & M University's Center for Viticulture. Currently they volunteer with UF/IFAS Extension, USDA Farm Service Agency, and the Natural Resources Conservation Service, as Master Gardeners, High School Envirothon Team Competition leaders, and committee members. Their passion for educating youth about agriculture is reflected in these activities as well as the donation of their Vertigro System, and their time, to the Calhoun County 4-H Youth Gardens.

Impacting Agriculture in the Northwest District

Calhoun County citizens and surrounding producers have gained knowledge about the diversity of agriculture by seeing the various alternative crops grown by the Price Family over the years. The impact of Harmony Farm has been a positive one for agriculture in the NW Extension District. ■

Rodger and Marcia Price *Altha, Florida*

