

# CARES Recipient Profile

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**Farm:** Colson Farms

**Location:** Gilchrist County

**Date of Origination:** 1904

**Commodities:** Beef Cattle, Grass Seed & Hay

Benjamin “Frank” and Mary Kate Colson own and operate Colson Farms in Gilchrist County. The 5<sup>th</sup> generation farm started in 1904 and proudly grows grass seed, hay and raises beef cattle. Colson Farms is a family-run business with all members of the family having an active role in the prosperity of the farm.



Colson Farms has implemented BMPs for the past 10 years. BMPs are a set of guidelines that advise producers on how to manage the water, nutrient, and pesticides they are using to reduce agriculture's impact on the state's natural resources. Some of the BMPs that have been implemented include crop rotation, cattle grazing rotation, and soil testing of land. Rotational grazing utilizes cross fencing or fencing of sensitive areas to allow for animal rotation and protection of waterbodies. By rotating the herd from pasture to pasture, it gives the grass enough time to grow tender leaves for cattle grazing and enhances efficiency to the pastures' growth. These practices ensure that their land will remain productive and viable for future generations.

Mr. Colson is a member of the Gilchrist County Cattlemen's Association, Cherry Sink Church of Christ, and has been a Gilchrist County Farm Bureau member for over 50 years. Additionally, he was a member of the USDA board and the Soil & Water Conservation District.

When asked why they believe it is important to protect our environment, Colson responded, “To preserve our land for future generations to farm.”