



CARES PROFILE

SWEET SEASON FARMS

HISTORY

Since 2008, Trent & Sharon Mathews have owned and operated Sweet Season Farms. For more than 140 years, the Mathews family has farmed in Santa Rosa County. Today, the Mathews raise beef cattle and grow corn, soybeans, cotton, peanuts, pumpkins and seasonal flowers. Last year, around 30,000 visitors spent time on their farm since the Mathews are also an agri-tourism operation. Providing visitors education in-person on just how much they protect the land is why Sweet Season Farms is a farm that cares.



COMMODITIES

Beef Cattle, Corn, Soybean, Cotton, Peanut, Pumpkins, Flowers



BMP PROGRAM

Mathews Best Management Practices program has been active since 2012. BMP's are based on UF/ IFAS recommendations for natural resource protection on cattle ranches and crops. BMPs implemented includes:

- subsurface drip irrigation
- planting native grasses
- planting cover crops
- variable rate fertilization by GPS
- soil grid sampling
- fencing off areas sensitive to erosion
- rotational grazing
- no-tillage



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PARTNERSHIPS

Mathews partners with local youth employing 60- 70 young people each fall to gain work experience and life skills at their agri- tourism operation. Providing these youth an opportunity to get involved in agricultural work while earning a meaningful wage is important endeavor to the Mathews family. The young people truly look forward to each season and this year marks the 10th anniversary of the Mathews family opening their farm to the Santa Rosa community!



LEADERSHIP

Florida Farm Bureau Federation
- YF& R Leadership Team
- State Water/ Natural Resources Advisory Committee Member
Farm Credit YBSM Advisory Committee Member
Santa Rosa Young Professionals
Chamber of Commerce Emerging Leadership



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COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

- Ag in the Classroom
- Legislative Lunch & Learn
- Santa Rosa Fair and Livestock Shows
- Secretary, Santa Rosa FFA Alumni
- President, Jaguar Booster Club

