

## Our Legacy

More recently, thousands of people have been our guests for Family Reunions, Weddings and related events, Corporate Retreats and Church Gatherings. The Farm offers multiple venues for events and ceremonies for 250+ people as well as on-site, overnight accommodations for approximately 25 people. With ample parking, restroom facilities and accessibility to the Atlanta airport and major interstate highways (I-85, I-75, I-20) the farm is the perfect place for friends and families to gather from various locations.

In 1933 Cecil and Adelia Spradlin purchased a piece of property on Harmon Road outside of LaGrange, Georgia with plans to open up a local dairy. Cecil paid \$1200 for the acreage and old, pine farmhouse. The gently rolling pastures and numerous fresh water springs were ideal for a productive dairy operation. During World War II, Cecil shipped off to serve his country in the European theatre and Adelia temporarily moved into LaGrange where she worked in the PigglyWiggly grocery store.

After returning from World War II, Cecil Spradlin and his young wife returned to the Farm where they lived the remainder of their lives. Cecil constructed a dairy barn and the 140 acre farm produced milk and other dairy products for the next 3 decades. In addition to truck delivery for local customers, the rear of the original dairy barn had a door for walk-up customers who could purchase fresh milk and dairy items for their families. In addition to fresh dairy products, the farm also produced seasonal fruits and vegetables from the kitchen garden which was originally located in the pasture immediately behind the original farmhouse. Adelia was an industrious homemaker and canned fruits and vegetables from the garden which sustained the family through the winter. In fact, when the farm was purchased in 2006, numerous jars of canned goods were still stored in the old smokehouse, immediately adjacent to the farmhouse and root cellar. A teenage farmhand, on a dare from a buddy, actually opened up a jar of peaches and ate one. When asked, what they tasted like, he replied, "Peaches, of course!".

The original farmhouse, which was built sometime between the late 1800's and the early 1900's, originally had four main rooms and a kitchen. This style of home, known as a 2X2 Farmhouse or four-square, was popular in the era it was built. The Spradlin's son Ira's bedroom was the room on the southwest corner of the house, his sisters shared the adjacent bedroom immediately behind. Across the wide hallway was Mr. and Mrs. Spradlin's bedroom and a family living room, or 'front room' as it was known when the Spradlin children were young. The hallway was an open corridor from the front to the rear of the house which, when the doors were open, provided a cooling breeze through the house during a hot, Georgia summer. There was no indoor bathroom until much later and a kitchen and smokehouse were attached to the rear of the house. Cecil built an indoor bathroom at the insistent prompting of Adelia who insisted upon modern plumbing after just having a copperhead snake curl down towards her in the outhouse, barely missing her neck before falling in the hole below.

For much of its existence, the house was painted white, but in the 1950's it was painted a pale green color. In front of the house, was an original mailbox which was marked, FFA (Future

Farmers of America) and was installed when young Ira was about 8 years old and joined the FFA. The pecan trees in front of the house were in existence for at least 60 years, but those in the rear of the house were planted in the 1940's by Ira when he was a boy.

Originally, in the rear of the farmhouse was the outhouse (prior to the copperhead incident!), water well and a 1 acre vegetable garden which provided the family's fruits and vegetables. Further down the hill, the pond was constructed by the Spradlins with Federal money which was made available to rural landowners for constructing ponds on their property.

In the 1950's and 60's the whitetail deer and turkey populations were decimated, as these wildlife populations were around the southeast. Once conservation laws and appropriate seasons for hunting were established the populations began to recover. Today, after years of management, the land is the site of a popular Agritourism site recognized by the State of Georgia for the blend of farm and agricultural activities and a rural retreat for families wanting to experience---even briefly---the joys of living the 'farm life'. The farm is active with wildlife including whitetail deer, turkeys, and numerous small game animals. The pond is stocked with bream, catfish and largemouth bass. Water from three different streams feed the property coming from the West, and North.

In the past 15 years, the former owner planted over 40 acres of the land in longleaf pines, which are being farmed and maintained for harvest. The remaining land is a combination of pasture and hardwood hollows--a perfect combination for recreation, riding and walking trails and enjoying the variety of wildlife found at Bogle Farms.