

2011 Cooperator of the Year Sherry Cox Family

Who would ever guess that a “City Girl” would someday receive the Cooperator of the Year Award? Well Sherry Cox never did! Sherry was raised in Independence MO by parents who were raised on farms in the Ozark Hills. Her mother was a dedicated homemaker and her father worked for GM for 35 years always with a farmer’s heart. Sherry inherited her father’s love of country living and longed to live in the country.

At 16 she met Paul Cox and they married Aug 10, 1963, within a year they purchased 160 acres near Latham and started a family which consisted of 4 children: Julie, Joey, Jeremy and Jennifer. Of course, being a “City Girl” Sherry had a lot of learning to do! When the hogs rooted up her gladiolas she didn’t like them so much! She learned the difference between a heifer and a cow, a gilt and a sow, a harrow and a rake and corn and milo. Over the years they quit row crops and dedicated themselves to cattle.

In 1997 Paul’s illness began and he passed in 2005. Sherry picked up the pieces and along with son, Joey, they began to rebuild and repair and put fences back in working condition which had been neglected.

Joey and his wife, Jo and 3 children, now live on the farm and help Sherry with the daily tasks. They tackled an Intensive Grazing System, installed 2 Ponds, a Diversion, Spring Development and a Critical Area Seeding. Sherry thanks God for making them stewards of the land. She feels blessed that they were able to put to use some programs available through FSA, NRCS and SWCD.

Sherry still resides on the original farm she and Paul purchased. The house was made bigger to accommodate the children, grandchildren (7) and great-grandchildren (5). If you stop by to see her, you will have to track her down because she is probably on the Kubota RTV checking the fences and teaching her grandchildren what to look for. She also works part-time for the local radio station KRL.

Sherry thanks God every day for his blessings on her for providing her with the health and wonderful family to get it all accomplished.

This “City Girl” transformed into a farmer’s wife AND a farmer quite well after all! EXCEPT for those darn hogs!