National Farmers Union

FARMERS UNION CELEBRATES

PECANS



The American Pecan Council, which is the oversight of the Federal Pecan Marketing Order, is made up of a group of growers and shellers representing fifteen of the major pecan producing states. I serve as a council member representing the central region as a large grower. My involvement with pecans started with a personal challenge. While in my twenties, clearing bottom land on our ranch, I noticed some trees were harder to remove than others. The trees were very tall and quite large in diameter. After further examination, I realized these majestic trees were pecans. I then told myself "if I can't get them out then I will do whatever it takes to make them produce". I challenged myself at that moment to produce enough pecans for my mother-in-law to have a pecan pie for Thanksgiving. With over 1,200 acres of pecans now under management, I produce enough pecans for a lot of mother-in-law's.

One of our first campaigns of the American Pecan Council was the Pecan-a-Thon. We challenged people not to send money but challenged them to use pecans in at least one additional recipe during the holiday season in addition to the traditional pecan pie. So that is my challenge to each of you during National Pecan Month, to find a way to utilize pecans in your diet. Pecans are the most antioxidant-rich tree nut and now have the heart healthy check mark. To find out more go to www.americanpecan.com and check out all the exciting recipes and nutritional qualities of America's Original Super Not, "THE PECAN". To find out how we get pecans from our orchard to your table, go to YouTube and look for Flying G Ranch Pecans.

Mike Spradling, Oklahoma Farmers Union Member