



## Denny & Wanda Olsen: The Whispering Pines Lane Funny Farm *From City Life to Life on the (Funny) Farm*

What would make a city guy from Chicago trade bumper to bumper traffic for a ride in the country on a tractor? The answer: Love and a sense of humor. When Denny Olsen met Wanda while they were both stationed at the Wichita Falls, Texas Air Force Base, it was a match made in heaven. The two shared much in common. Yet, their backgrounds were quite different. Denny grew up in the city while Wanda was raised on a farm in the country. They married and eventually moved to Wanda's home state of Alabama in 1977.

The transition from city to country proved to be a big adjustment for Denny. Wanda certainly did not help when she convinced him that her parents' home, where they would be living temporarily, didn't even have flushing toilets. "The first thing Denny did when he walked in the door was flush the toilet," Wanda said laughing.

Country life adjustment took on a whole new meaning when, in 2002, Denny and Wanda decided to purchase 30 acres in Bibb County so they could own horses. The under-developed land was purchased from Jim Lemond, a longtime Cahaba Tractor customer who would become a mentor to Denny on the ways of country living and farming. Following the land purchase, Denny and Wanda bought their first Kubota, an L5030 from Cahaba Tractor they named Bertha, with a bush hog and 25 ft. trailer to clear the land. The tractor was a much needed work horse and great source of entertainment for the new property owners. "One of us would sit in a lawn chair watching while the other would drive. We'd fight over who would drive it next," said Wanda.

In 2005, they officially relocated to their new home. Nicknamed the *Tent*, the 800 sq. ft. apartment sits on a slab under a coverall building alongside a 600 sq. ft. storage room. "It's perfect for the two of us," said Wanda. "Until we invite people over," joked Denny, referring to the apartment's rather small size.

The following year, they purchased Nellie Bell, a closed cab RTV and dump trailer. Two years later, Bitsy, a BX24 with front loader and backhoe was purchased. With all this equipment Denny finally looked like a bona fide country farmer. Yet, his epiphany that he'd finally made the transition came from a totally different source. Denny recalls the moment, "I was nursing a calf with a bottle while sitting on a bale of hay in a horse stall on a farm when the realization hit me." He's been sold out to his new lifestyle ever since.

The journey has been a good one for the Olsen's, and Cahaba Tractor has been there from the beginning. "We had been to other places and looked, but we come back to Cahaba Tractor to buy because they are just like extended family members," said Wanda. "They're always knowledgeable and know us by name whenever we walk through the door." Denny quickly added, "It's just like *Cheers*. Everybody knows your name. You walk in and feel like family."

Denny admits that he likes the more personal approach and the fact that there are no high pressure sales tactics. "At Cahaba Tractor, it's not high pressure selling. They give us the best price possible and let us think about it. We like that." He also admits that Kubota is his preferred brand. "For us, Kubota is a good value and quality. It fits our *gentleman farmer* position."

Wanda's favorite feature in the Kubota is the hydrostatic clutch that makes it easier to operate. She also likes the service that Cahaba Tractor provides. "They work quickly and don't make you wait for weeks on end to get things fixed," she added. "They also come out and make sure you understand how to operate the equipment and that you're comfortable with it."

It's obvious that Cahaba Tractor and Kubota have been instrumental in helping this couple transition to life in the country. With a working farm that is home to five horses, three dogs and two cats, their calling card says it all, *The Whispering Pines Lane Funny Farm, "It's a Real Zoo!"*, Denny & Wanda Olsen, *Owners/Inmates*. Who says life on the farm can't be fun?