



## Tom Haney: Meadow Lake Farms *Gentleman Farmer*

These days, Tom Haney, a self-professed "gentleman farmer," is enjoying life in retirement. He's happy to be spending more time talking "tractors" and less about things like "term life," as he did during his more than 27 years in the insurance business. His focus now is on doing what he loves: visiting with the grandkids, maintaining his large property, bee keeping and gardening, as well as hunting and fishing. With all of these hobbies, he needs some good, reliable machinery to take the "work" out of playtime.

Tom began his relationship with Cahaba Tractor in 1991 when he purchased his first tractor. "The reason I went to Cahaba Tractor was that they were convenient to where I lived, so I went to them first and have developed a friendship with them over the years," he said. That friendship resulted in the purchase of several more tractors, an RTV and, his favorite, a Kubota zero-turn mower, as well as two finishing mowers, two bush hogs, two discs and many other implements. "My wife calls them 'toys,'" he said. "I call them 'tools.'"

Tom enjoys the way Cahaba Tractor customers are treated like family, not just customers. "I feel like I'm a friend, first and foremost, and a customer next," he said. "They always make you feel welcome. They are easy to do business with and I trust them," Tom adds. "At Cahaba Tractor, they do what they say they are going to do."

Whenever he decides to trade in one of his products for another, Tom knows he'll get a good deal at Cahaba Tractor. "They always give good trade-in deals," he stated, "and they'll never try to sell you something that you don't need. They'll recommend the best product to get the job done for you."

Tom re-counts the story of the day he wanted to test the Kubota zero-turn mower. Dale Gamble, Cahaba Tractor employee, showed up at his house with two options. "Instead of bringing just one, he brought two, so I could try them out and see what I liked best." Naturally, Tom chose the biggest, the six foot, 72 inch mower. It's been a love affair ever since. "I tell my wife," he said, "if that thing ever breaks down, you'll see me crying!" It is his "Dream Machine." Tom stated, "I can't live without it. It'll cut grass faster than you can stay on it." Speed is what he is looking for on the days he has to mow his yard. Instead of a three hour plus job, it only takes one hour and forty-five minutes.

His Kubota tractor is mainly used for upkeep at the 4,000 acre hunting camp he's leased since 1981. The 20 member camp requires regular maintenance, as well as upkeep on the green fields. Tom brings the tractor to the camp mostly in spring and summer to help prepare the fields for hunting season.

While Tom does his own oil changes and minor repairs to his machines, he relies on [Cahaba Tractor's Service Department](#) to provide regular maintenance on them. "Every other year, the machines go back to Cahaba Tractor for service," he said. "I bring the tractor and RTV and Allen (Cahaba Tractor delivery driver, Allen Morris) picks up my zero-turn for me."

For this "gentleman farmer," life is easy when you have a good product and a good company to take the "work" out of playtime. "Kubota is a fine product that is easy to operate," Tom added. "And Cahaba Tractor...they're just good people."