

Good Morning students,

Thanks for all the great questions. I enjoyed reading your stories and jokes. You all are pretty funny!
Below are the answers to your questions.

Questions about your family?

1. Does it snow in snowflake?

Yes, it does snow sometimes. Although it usually melts by the next day.

2. What are your daughters' names? Do they work on the farm?

My daughters names' are Payge, Parci, BaiLee and Briette. Payge and Parci are both in college, BaiLee and Briette are both in High School. They do work on the farm; they can all drive a tractor. Their main job is to mow the grass every 4 or 5 days during the summer.

Questions about the Farm?

1. How many animals do you have? Do you have any pigs, sheep or goats?

We have four horses (Gunner, Splinky, Oreo and Scooter). The girls are also raising show steers for the county fair. They have raised pigs before as well.

2. What do you do on your ranch?

We take care of 160 mamma cows. We make sure they have enough feed and water. We go out on the ranch almost every day and check on them to make sure everything is ok. In February all the cows start having their babies, In May we put a brand on all the babies so everyone knows who they belong to. We also give them shots to make sure they are healthy. When the babies are about 8 months old they weigh about 550 lbs and we sell them. That's how we make money from ranching.

3. What do you do with your cows?

We take care of our cows so they will raise good baby calves. Caring for the cows requires feeding, watering, and vaccinations.

4. Do your cows eat the grass you grow?

My cows would LOVE to eat my sod fields, but they would make a mess of my farm! The grass I raise on the sod farm is for yards and football fields. The grass that grows on the ranch is better for the cows so that's what they eat.

5. What kind of machine do you use to "dig up" the grass so that it can be transplanted?

Its called a sod harvester, it's a big tractor with a blade and conveyer on the side that harvests the grass cuts it into pieces and rolls it into rolls. Its then stacked on a pallet and loaded on my big truck with a forklift.

6. Do you own a company that puts grass in for customers?

I do install grass for people through my grass company. My company name is Cedar Ridge Sod.

7. Do you ever take a day off?

Starting in March and going through October/ November I spend about 12 – 18 hours a day Monday through Saturday on the farm. I do take Sunday off to go to church and spend time with my family. Although I do have to water the grass on Sunday so I work a few hours that day. During the winter my sod goes dormant (goes to sleep) so I have lots of time off. I spend a lot of my winter hours coaching high school basketball. I have been coaching for the past 14 yrs. and 2 yrs. ago we won the state championship.

8. Do you have any big pieces of equipment?

Yes, I have a big Semi-truck that I deliver sod in. I also have big tractors that I work the farm with.

Questions about grass?

1. How do you keep bugs away from the turf?

In Northern Arizona we don't have much problem with bugs, we do have weed problems but we put a spray on them that kills the weeds but not the grass.

2. Is Kentucky Blue Grass actually blue?

Kentucky Bluegrass is not actually blue, it's just a really dark color of green.

3. Does the sod grow well in different places? Do you have to grow different grass in different places?

I raise Kentucky Bluegrass, it grows well in colder climates. If I tried to raise bluegrass in Phoenix the heat of the summer would burn it up. It does grow very well in the mountains and areas that have a cold winter. There are other grasses I could raise up here but Kentucky Bluegrass is a very pretty grass that is fun to play on so that is all I raise.

4. Do the cleats from the players hurt the grass?

It can if it has to many games on it without rest. At Cardinal stadium they change the grass out in the middle of the field a couple of times during the season because all those huge lineman digging there cleats in tears it up. At my high school field, it wears on it some but it gets enough rest to recover.

5. Can the sod grow dandelions?

Unfortunately, it grows them very well. It is the main weed that I have to spray with weed spray to kill. I do not like dandelions at all!!

6. How long does it take for the sod to grow before you can “dig it up.”

It takes about a year for the roots of the grass to be strong enough to be able to cut it up and transplant it in people’s yards or on sports fields.

7. How long does it take to water the fields?

I water the field almost every day in the summer, it needs about ¼ of an inch a day or 1 ½ inches of water a week. In the summer I feel like it’s the main thing I do.

8. Does all of your family work on the farm?

Like I said earlier my girls do a lot of mowing, I have also had a lot of my nephews work for me during the past fifteen years that I have been in business. I also use other kids from the high school.

9. How much does the grass grow in 1 year?

It grows like your yard does, I have to mow it every 4 or 5 days.

10. Why is grass/sod green?

I am not sure; I just know that it is one of my favorite colors.

11. Why does sod look more beautiful than regular grass?

If by regular grass you mean grass raised from seed, sod typically looks nicer because I raise it for 12 months and water, and fertilize, and spray for weeds. By the time sod gets to the homeowner it is already beautiful.

12. How do you keep the grass from turning yellow?

You can keep grass from turning yellow by applying the right amount of water and fertilizer.

13. Do you water all your fields in one day?

Sometimes I do. And when I do it takes almost 18 hours to water it all.

14. What do you do in the winter when the sod is not growing?

I do projects around the farm for the next season, I work on my house, and I spend a lot of time coaching high school basketball.

15. Does your watering system ever stop working? If yes, what do you do?

It does. When it breaks down I do whatever it takes to get it up and working again sometimes I have to work late into the night to get it up and going. It really doesn’t break down very often.

16. How many acres is your farm?

It’s about 60 acres.

17. How many different kinds of grass do you grow?

Just one, Kentucky Bluegrass.

18. How much water does it take to grow a field of sod?

It takes a lot, in the summer it needs about 1 1/2 inches a week to keep it green and beautiful. In the winter it doesn't take any it goes to sleep.