

Farm Friday Fun

Mortimer Farms



Mortimer Farms is in Dewey, Arizona. Sharla and Gary Mortimer operate the farm along with their children and staff. Gary and Sharla purchased their farm and ranch in 2003. “We loved growing up in and around agriculture,” says Sharla. “We wanted to give our children this experience as well. We started by finding a great property and continue it with lots of hard work!”

The Mortimer family grows over 40 varieties of fruits and vegetables. They grow strawberries, blackberries, sweet corn, tomatoes, peppers, garlic, potatoes, onions, and lots of other garden vegetables. But pumpkins are their largest crop. They grow 90 acres of pumpkins each year and produce nearly 200,000 pumpkins! The neat part is that not all the pumpkins are the same. They grow over 50 varieties of pumpkins. Some you might be familiar with are the warty, Cinderella, giants, pink, blue, jack-I-lantern, and sweet pie.

The pumpkin seed are planted with a tractor and special planter in June and July and are then harvested by hand in September and October. “We love having families come to the farm and pick their own pumpkins in the field,” says Sharla.

Something a lot of people don’t know about pumpkins is that pumpkins are very healthy for you! They are great to eat but are mostly used for decorations.

Sharla's favorite part of the pumpkin festival? "Our pumpkin fest opens in the middle of September and runs thru October. My favorite part about the harvest season is seeing Arizona families enjoying the farm together making memories! The largest pumpkin to come from Mortimer Farm's was 680 pounds. It took 9 months to grow!

"Being a farmer is the best job in the world! We get to plant tiny seeds and turn it into food! I love having families come to our farm, be involved in our farm operations, and take home the produce they have harvested themselves," says Sharla.



Gary Mortimer of Mortimer Farms prepares the soil for planting.



Kolten Mortimer works with his parents on the farm. He loves all of the technology that he gets to work with on the farm!



The pumpkin crop is the largest crop at Mortimer Farms. They harvest nearly 200,000 pumpkins each season. The largest pumpkin to come from their farm, 680 pounds!