

# COTTON



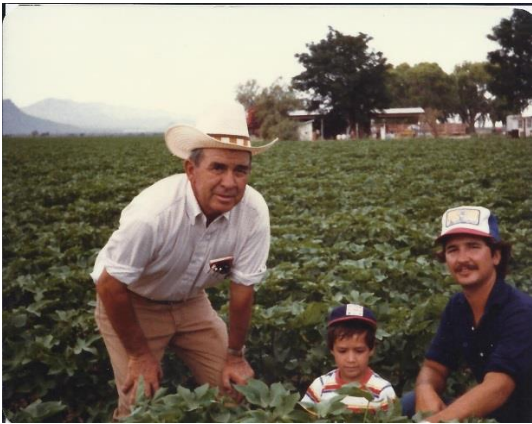
Dan Pacheco is a 4<sup>th</sup> generation farmer from Marana, Arizona. He currently works as the Farm Manager on his family's farm. This means he does pretty much everything on the farm! His role includes managing farm workers, scheduling irrigation, performing irrigation duties, managing fertilizer needs, scouting fields for insect damage, tractor mechanic, truck mechanic, equipment maintenance, operating equipment and much more. Dan is also responsible for book keeping, accounting and human resources on the farm. As you can see, farmers wear many hats!

The Pacheco family has been farming in the Marana are, just north of Tucson, since the 1950's. At one point, there were four generations of Pachecos working on the farm. Today, there are only two. Although cotton is the primary crop on their farm, currently farming 1060 acres, he also grows some rotational crops such as desert durum wheat and sorghum on 440 acres.

The cotton grown on the Pacheco Farm is tolerant to Glyphosate (roundup and Dicamba herbicides). These cotton varieties are also genetically modified to produce a natural toxin to lepidopteran pests (worms). This has almost completely eliminated the need for chemical insecticides to protect the crop.

The Pachecos plant their cotton in April and harvest in October. Their cotton can be found all over the world!

Dan's favorite thing about growing cotton is growing cotton. He really enjoys bringing life to plants and watching them produce. "We plant tiny cotton seeds and nurture them with water and nutrients until they are full of cotton bolls."



Pictured above left are Dan and his father and one of his sons. Pictured to the right is Dan and his brothers.