



We are Green Valley Pecan Company, a division of Farmer's Investment Co., also known as FICO. We are located in Sahuarita, AZ with farms in Green Valley, Sahuarita, San Simon, and in Albany, Georgia. Our family has been farming since 1937 with the production of various crops. The pecan orchard was developed in 1965 and continues to this day. The company was founded by my Grandfather, Keith Walden, and is now run by his son, my Dad, Dick Walden, me, Deborah E. Walden Ralls, and my brother Rich Walden. Other locations of the farm are San Simon, AZ and Albany, GA.

I am the Vice President of risk management for our company. Although I have not always had this role. I have worked in other areas on the farm, painting trees, working in the retail store and the processing plant as a kid. My father always believed it was important for myself and brother to learn all facets of the farm, from driving a tractor to learning the hand test methods used to grade our pecans. I can honestly say I wear many hats, but my focus today is food safety and risk management.

We have a little under 10,000 acres on our farms. About 8,300 of those acres are planted orchards. We have about 300,000 trees.

I love farming! My favorite part about farming is seeing how a seed grows into a product that today is considered a super nut for its great nutritional value. Most importantly, this nut provides direct employment to more than 350 people, supports the community in many ways, and has international recognition.

Farming can be extremely challenging as there are too many factors that escape our control such as: weather, legislation, personnel and so on. Running a large operation with world-wide demands requires a great deal of coordination of many moving parts. All these combined with the need to fulfil my role as a community member and most importantly family member can be stressful.

Did you know?

- Pecans are native to North America; United States and Mexico, it is now being produced by several other countries, but we have about 80% of the world-wide production.
- There are over 1,000 varieties of pecans. Many are named for Native American tribes, including Cheyenne, Mohawk, Sioux, Choctaw and Shawnee. Green Valley Pecan Co. grows two main varieties: Wichitas and Western Schley.
- Pecan trees have both male and female flowers on the same tree that are wind pollinated. The male flowers form hanging catkins, and the female flowers are arranged in tight clusters at the ends of the shoots.
- Pecans flower once a year.
- After pollination, it will take approximately seven months before a pecan is ready for harvest.
- It takes approximately eight years from seed until a tree reaches maturity.

We are among the largest vertically integrated companies in the world. We not only farm, but we process pecans through our shelling operation on the farm.

We are continuously finding ways to improve our practices in the field to comply with sustainable demands as well as market needs. Pecan trees are naturally alternate bearing trees; one year the production is high and the opposite on the next. Our experience has allowed us to control this oscillation in production by using pruning techniques like topping and hedging.

We are transitioning our ways of irrigation going from flood to sprinklers which reduces the amount of water needed and making it more manageable.

I hope you have enjoyed learning about our farm!

Sincerely,

Deb

Deborah Walden- Ralls

Vice President of Risk Management
Family Farmer



Overhead shot of one of our orchards



A look in the rows of trees



Shaking the trees as harvest
pecans



Making rows to pick up the



The pecans are processed on our farm before being shipped to customers