

## >> Growing Food, Growing Kids

Much of the growth, which also includes an animal area and earthworm production, is thanks to the involvement of volunteers. “Most of our business partners are in their 70s and 80s,” says Poteet. “They have so much information stored up in their life experience when it comes to farming.”

Another partner is the University of Florida Master Gardener program. “They want to see gardening come back at the elementary level,” says Poteet.

Pine Grove students are responsible for planting and monitoring their class plot. Any potential problems recorded by a class or volunteer are reported to the science club, which is responsible for researching and implementing an appropriate solution.

Students in the science club also learn “a lot of math,” says fifth-grader Mia Lizuinga. By using examples from the garden, the kids are introduced to practical geometry and mathematical



Doug Poteet

concepts. When they really get a concept, Poteet likes to say, “And now you’re hireable.”

More projects are in the works, and Poteet is also working to get the food grown at Pine Grove into the school cafeteria. “It would be a leap of faith in our cafeteria, because now they would be counting on what we grow at our school,” says Poteet. “It’s a whole rethinking of what is available based on the season.”

But the biggest benefit, says parent volunteer Dwayne Ross, who is one of the managers at another local community garden, is the knowledge that’s passed on to the kids. “When you see an elementary school child’s face light [up] when they’re eating what they’ve grown, and they’re tasting something for the first time—that’s the benefit.”

—Clair McLafferty



# Prince Farming

### FARMING HAS GONE PRIME TIME—OR AT LEAST ONE FARMER HAS.

Chris Soules, aka “Prince Farming,” was all the rage during ABC’s reality show *The Bachelor* this past season. Yet, the native Iowan comes by his nickname honestly. He’s a third-generation farmer who, while under the spotlight, has become something of an ambassador for agriculture.

He’s also an AGCO customer. Growing soybeans and corn on some 5,500 acres, as well as finishing about 20,000 hogs each year on contract, Soules and his father, Gary, use a Sunflower® 6630 and a Sunflower 4511 from K & A Farm Equipment in Strawberry Point, Iowa.

The 33-year-old Soules says his stint on *The Bachelor*, as well as *The Bachelorette*, another show on the U.S.-based ABC network, offered him an opportunity to share his passion for agriculture with a broad audience. Farming, he says, has “given me the opportunity to work with my parents on the farm and to run our business together. You can be your own boss, and love what you’re doing.”

His close relationship with his family is also how he ended up on *The Bachelorette*. “I live in a small town in northeast Iowa, and finding and meeting women isn’t that easy,” says Soules. “I have three older sisters, and one of them thought it would be a good idea to sign me up.” In both programs, singles interview potential spouses.

When he was asked to return for *The Bachelor*, he found out that he would miss the harvest during taping. “Making the decision to go back was a tough one, but I went ahead with it,” he says. “My hope is that [doing this] will have a positive impact on how people think of farmers and my home state.” —Clair McLafferty

## FarmLIFE FIVE



**THIS ISSUE:** *In an emergency, response time is critical. Use these tips to develop a plan. For more tips from Penn State Extension’s Agricultural Safety and Health website, check out [myFarmLife.com/emergencies](http://myFarmLife.com/emergencies).*

### PRINT AN AERIAL PHOTO

or map of your farm. Include all farm buildings, structures and dwellings. Multiple pages are acceptable. On the map, number or label each building, such as silos, bins and tanks.