

Member Spotlight

GAC sat down with Kelley Manufacturing Company (KMC) CEO, Lanier Carson, and President, Bennie Branch, this week. KMC was founded in 1966 by C.D. Kelley, originally in Columbus. In 1972, production was moved to Tifton where it currently resides today. At that point, KMC made four products which were all tillage and peanut harvesting equipment. Since that time, KMC's main focus has been innovation and making sure the customer always comes first. They were the first to produce the four-row peanut combine, and now have over 50 product lines including a six-row combine, poultry house cleanup equipment, and stalk shredder. KMC designs and manufactures equipment all over the world. While the majority of their dealers are located in the Southeast, they also have a presence in the Midwest and Western U.S. You might also spot one of the unmistakable green KMC hats on their customers in Canada, Venezuela, Brazil, Egypt, South Africa, and other countries around the world.



Mr. Carson credits KMC's ability to keep their customers happy with the low turnover with the over 185 employees. KMC takes pride in taking care of their employees, making sure that they're trained and given opportunities to continue their education. KMC believes in their employees so much that in 1990, the company developed an Employee Stock Ownership Plan. Today, the entire company is owned by its employees.

Mr. Carson owns a farm in Tift County that he leases to KMC. They grow cotton, peanuts, soybeans and corn to evaluate their products to ensure that management and the engineering staff are abreast of the technological developments and the USDA programs that impact agriculture. This is also where Mr. Carson learned to grow peanuts, and where he saw the need for a more efficient way to harvest peanuts. He credits the longevity of KMC to the values that they apply to their employees, dealers and customers. We're glad to have Kelley Manufacturing Company as a longtime GAC member!

