

Meet the Boggs Family: Planting More Than Roots in Rock Hill

Hannah Boggs always knew she wanted to work outdoors, and her travels as a child taught her all about food and sustainable farming. Fortunately for our community, Hannah and her husband Liam decided to take their dream of owning a farm right here to Rock Hill.

Hannah was born in Montana and moved to Savannah when she was young. There, at the age of 11, she met Savannah native Liam Boggs. These childhood best friends began dating, got married in 2020, and made their way to Colorado.

Hannah studied political science at Colorado Christian University in the Denver area. Liam attended the Colorado School of Mines nearby, where he studied engineering. While the couple loved all of the beautiful landscapes and outdoor activities Colorado had to offer, they missed life in the south, including the beautiful weather we experience here, and they didn't feel a sense of community in Colorado.

The dream to own a farm had always seemed like a distant one, but the couple suddenly realized they didn't need to wait to make it happen. Liam took a job as a civil engineer, working on the reconstruction of I-26, near Columbia, and Hannah got to work planning and planting her vision. But where did this vision come from?

Hannah's early years in Montana really shaped her love for the outdoors and her curiosity for careers like ranching and farming. Thanks in part to the perks of having a pilot dad, she was able to travel all over the world. No matter what culture she visited, Hannah noticed two constants: food and farming. She found that other cultures view food very differently. They not only know where their produce comes from, they often know the farmer that grew it, too.

Those early experiences not only shaped her dream of owning a farm, they also fueled her passion for traditional farming methods that have served and sustained communities for centuries. She knew it would be hard work, and very unconventional by American standards, but it didn't stop the couple from implementing those strategies at Kingdom Gardens, their own farm on India Hook Road.

Kingdom Gardens is a no-till, no-spray regenerative farm. Because they don't till the land before planting, they are able to maintain the nutrients and biodiversity of the soil. No fertilizer is needed to produce delicious and nutrient dense fruits and vegetables.

Kingdom Gardens doesn't use pesticides either. In fact, they welcome the bugs! That's because bugs help to attract beneficial insects that eventually protect the plants. In addition, pollinators like bees and butterflies safely visit the farm in droves as soon as the weather warms up. This strategy does change up how the produce is planted, though. Rather than row cropping, where the same fruit or vegetable is planted in several long rows, they inter-plant, which involves grouping several different types of produce into the same space.

The farm doesn't just grow produce. They also raise pigs and chickens. Again, their methods are based in tradition rather than efficiency. The pigs, for example, roam a beautiful pastured forest, with shade and plenty of room to move about. The chickens are rotated to new pasture on the farm daily, as well, to ensure they always have new food to forage.

Liam's engineering job keeps him busy most of the week, though he enjoys helping with building projects on the weekends. Most of the farming, though, falls on Hannah, who couldn't be happier to do the job. The couple is excited to be at the farmer's market this summer in its new location. Hannah says

one of her favorite parts of the job is showing people produce they'd never see in a grocery store, like purple tomatoes or foot-long green beans!

Not only do they sell at the farmer's market, Kingdom Gardens also gives away about 10 percent of what they grow. They work with local churches and nonprofits to determine needs, and provide fresh fruit, vegetables, meat, and even flowers to families and ministries throughout the community. The family has a passion for helping refugees, as well. In April, Kingdom Gardens began selling bread baked by Afghan refugees and will return 100% of the proceeds to the families.

Liam and Hannah hope to continue to grow the farm this year, but they're even more excited that their family is growing! They are expecting their first child in November. The couple is looking forward to raising their new little one to love the outdoors as much as they do, and to give their child so much room to explore and be imaginative. Hannah's family is overjoyed to have a grandchild so close, and the rest of their families, who still live in Savannah, will likely be visiting often, as well.

It's no surprise that the couple that grows delicious produce are also foodies themselves. They love the food scene in Rock Hill and have enjoyed visiting all the new restaurants that keep popping up all over town. The Boggs family also loves to be out on the water. Aside from the farm itself, Lake Wateree is their happy place, and when the weather warms up, they head there every couple of weeks for some much-needed relaxation.

If you're at the Old Town Market this summer and fall, be sure to stop by and see the fresh produce, bread, and more that Kingdom Gardens has to offer. As their farm and their family continue to grow, it's clear that Liam and Hannah Boggs plan to serve the community for years to come.