



# ANDY + MORGAN



MINNIE + HONEY



OUR VARIOUS FARM ANIMALS

# Thank *You*

Thank you for taking time to flip through these pages to get to know us. We think about you every day and pray that as you go through this process you feel support and love. Since starting this journey, we have learned that it takes true strength and selfless love to choose adoption. To us, there is no greater love than choosing a family for your baby. We believe you are brave and strong. We are humbled to be considered in this loving and caring decision. If we are chosen, we promise to raise your child with love, care and respect for their unique story. We pray you find peace, hope and strength in your journey.





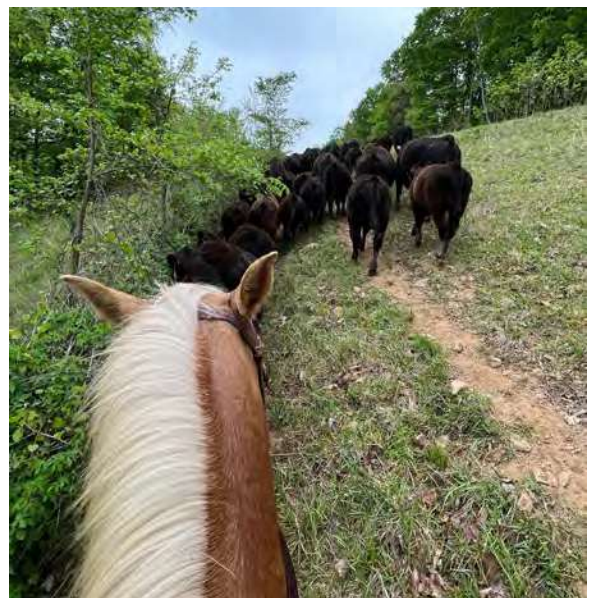
# About Us

**To us, family are the people who love you unconditionally** and who you would do anything for. For the majority of our relationship, we lived 14 hours away from our immediate families. While we were there, we were taken in by one of Morgan's co-worker's families and we celebrated holidays with them. We even went on a family vacation to the lake with them. Our first night at the campsite, we slept in a tent, and it rained. We learned that our tent was not waterproof and since we forgot our air mattress, the next morning our foam pad and blankets were soaking wet. Our "Ohio family" helped us lay out everything to dry and we slept in the tent successfully the next two nights.



**We look forward to church on Sunday mornings.** When we first started dating it had been close to 10 years since Andy had stepped foot in a church. Soon after we were engaged we attended pre-marital counseling. Since then, we place God at the center of our relationship and trust him to guide us along life's journey. Our first Christmas candle light service together with some of our friends in 2020 was extra memorable. It was so cold that Morgan kept HotHands in her pockets and a hot chocolate in hand. The service was short, but the feeling of praising God alongside dozens of others is pretty special. That's why finding a church was the first thing we did after we moved to the farm. We now attend a big church with an active children's ministry. Your child will grow up knowing God.

**Working on the farm is a family affair** and we help whenever we can. One morning last spring, we had to move cows a few miles to the corals. Morgan and her sister hauled the horses to where the cows were, and they started gathering them with the help of her brothers and parents on four-wheelers. It was the first time Morgan had ridden in months and they had to move cows a couple of miles over the hill and down the other side. There were a few bulls being particularly stubborn, but luckily the palomino mare Morgan rode had a lot of energy to keep up and they kept the herd in place while her sister and brothers chased the runaway bulls back to the group. Your child will learn teamwork in our family.



# Meet Morgan

from Andy



Morgan **always finds a way to help**, whether it's designing a logo for her friends newest endeavor, taking their family pictures or volunteering both of us to watch kids. One evening after work she agreed to go to a festival with her sister's mini donkey business to take pictures. No one wanted to pay to have their pictures with the mini donkeys. So instead, she took a lead rope and helped lead them around for kids (and adults) to pet. Seeing the kids light up when they were able to pet the donkeys made the failed photo attempt worth it. Your child will learn how to make the most out of every situation.

Wherever Morgan goes, **she is dedicated to the people around her**, which makes her a great fit to help with the wedding venue our family recently started. At the first official wedding, she went out of her way to make sure everything was just as the bride and groom wanted. Like putting every single letter on one at a time for their sign. The bride had all of the letters cut out on a Cricut, but no transfer paper - which is what you need to transfer the letters all at once! Morgan sat down with her tiny level, tape and string to mark straight, level lines across the board then started peeling and sticking each letter individually. The hour it took to stick the letters on was well worth it when the family was ecstatic to have the sign at the ceremony.



Morgan **recently learned to crochet** from her mom. Ever since, she started crocheting she has always been trying to make new things. She even crocheted a cow for our friends first baby. This was a lengthy process, that had Morgan wanting to call it quits after each arm, leg, ear or even the nose was complete because the animal transformed each time a new piece was added. Sometimes it looked like a duck or a penguin, but in the end it looked (mostly) like a cow. By the time she got it all stitched together it was amazing to see what she was able to do.



# Meet Andy

from Morgan

I have never met anyone who **thinks of everyone else** like Andy does. When we first started dating, I went to his parents for a Super Bowl watch party. His buddy told me that Andy always takes care of everyone and since then I have watched countless instances of his selfless acts of service. Sometimes I wonder if that will ever stop, but three years into marriage, it hasn't yet. Our first summer home we borrowed a fan from my parents to help circulate the cool air in our house. A week later, our aunt was staying at my parents and she can't sleep without a fan. When Andy heard she was staying the night, he took our smaller fan to her so she could get a good night's sleep. Our aunt was grateful for Andy's thoughtfulness. Your child will be Andy's first priority.



**“Handy Andy” is his nickname** among family and friends, and **for good reason.** The first summer after we moved to the farm, he built a 22-by-12 foot deck on his own! Arkansas summers are hot, but Andy would be outside working every afternoon so sweaty that he looked like he got sprayed with the water hose. The deck is sturdy, beautiful and our new favorite spot to hang out because you can see the horses and cows grazing in the pasture in the valley behind our house. Andy is already dreaming of the fun toys and play houses he will build for your child one day.

Andy **loves to cook and try new recipes for preparing meat.** When Morgan's sister got married, Andy volunteered to grill flank steaks and chicken breasts for fajitas at the 400+ person wedding. He had never prepared that much meat on his own before, but luckily he had helped a friend grill meat for another wedding. He got the recipe, practiced and gathered a team of other “meat heads” to get the job done. Everyone bragged about the meat at the wedding because of its flavor and tenderness – the compliment every grill master craves.



# Our Story

If you caught us on the dance floor today, you wouldn't know that **we originally met at dance lessons**. Andy's brother married Morgan's friend and before the wedding, their families took two-step dancing lessons. Andy needed a dance partner, so the bride invited Morgan. We didn't do much talking during those lessons, but we laughed A LOT! Morgan jokes that she had to count, 1-2-3-4 to the beat to stay on rhythm (something Morgan still does today when we dance). About three months after the wedding, Andy messaged Morgan on Instagram about one of the stories she posted while driving a tractor in the hay field. We messaged back and forth for a month and then Andy asked Morgan on a date. After three dates we were a couple.



**We love people** and are comfortable stepping into a crowd of strangers. Early in our relationship, Morgan was a bridesmaid in many of her friends' weddings. The first summer we were dating we went to a wedding in Canada for one of her college friends. Because Morgan was a bridesmaid, we went a day early to help the family prepare for the wedding by decorating and gluing programs for the ceremony. Andy had never met these people before, but **jumped right in and instantly became friends** (as he always does). By the time we left, the family was telling Morgan that he was a keeper and a great guy. Of course, she already knew that, but now jokes that once Andy came along he was "the catch" in the relationship instead of her.

About a year into our marriage, we started trying to get pregnant. After fertility testing, we learned that we face challenges to have a baby. Instead of pursuing fertility treatments, we decided adoption was going to be our route to parenthood. **More than anything, we just want to be parents**. We would be overjoyed to raise your child, provide a safe and loving home, and find ways to honor you in the process – if that is what you want.





# Honey + Minnie



**We are dog people** and both grew up with family pets. Morgan's family always had farm dogs, barn cats and even inside cats. Andy's family also always had an assortment of farm dogs that went everywhere with them. While Morgan is very thoughtful and likes to take time to make a decision, getting both Honey and Minnie were spontaneous decisions. Honey is a red heeler and is the best behaved dog we've ever had. She was tiny when Morgan brought her home at six weeks old, and just a couple of months later Andy entered the picture. Now **Honey has the sweetest soul** and loves people. She always wants to please us and obeys the rules well.

Minnie is a chocolate heeler and has **a lot of energy and sass**. She's obsessed with us and follows us everywhere we go. She is also obsessed with Honey and doesn't like to go outside without her. We call her "Squirt" because she used to pee and squeal when she got excited. Now, if we really want to get her attention, that's what we have to holler. Thankfully she doesn't pee like that anymore, but every time someone arrives at our house, she still greets them with the highest pitched squeals you've ever heard.



**Our dogs love kids.** A few days before we left Ohio, Morgan's brothers drove a stock trailer up to help us move. We had our friends over with their newborn baby waiting for their arrival. We laid the baby on the floor on a blanket and Minnie and Honey were so curious to look at and smell her. We kept them arm's length away but finally Honey laid down and gently leaned back so that her head was nestled against the baby's body. When Morgan's brothers arrived, Honey was excited to see them, but she would run across the living room to say hi to them and quickly come back to look at the baby to make sure she was okay, too.

# Things That Bring Us *Joy*

We love to serve others. When we lived in Ohio, we volunteered to lead a group at Vacation Bible School at our church. Morgan helped with the younger kids during Sunday school, so she signed us up for the pre-K age group. The first year we served, there was one little boy who was a handful. He always ran around and was hard to keep focused during the different activities, but **we were patient and found new ways to connect with him every night**. We finally connected with him when we squatted down to his level and talked to him directly. Finally, he calmed down and we offered him extra gold stars if he participated in the activities.



Growing up, Morgan spent time at the river that runs along her family's land. Now that we live less than a mile from the swimming hole, we enjoy going to the river on hot summer days to cool off. The first June after we moved, our "Ohio family" came to visit us and we spent hours and hours at the river. Their kids pulled Morgan on a tube up and down the straight stretch of water. When she told them they didn't have to pull her and could just swim, they said, "No, we want to!" So **she relaxed, enjoyed the ride and chimed in to their stories of being captains of her ship**. Your child will have many opportunities to make memories at our favorite swimming hole.

We enjoy "fixer upper" projects – so much that we completely remodeled our first home in Ohio. We searched for the right house for weeks and when we found one with a good foundation and structure, it also came with pink carpet and wallpaper. As soon as we closed, we started pulling out the carpet and stripping the wallpaper. One night we were sitting in our apartment after working on our house and Andy told Morgan he wanted shiplap on a certain wall. Morgan lit up because she wanted the same thing! **We transformed the house into our first home**, complete with new flooring, drywall, bathtub, light fixtures, kitchen cabinets, and shiplap.



*Before*



*After*



Even though we are too old to be members of 4-H and FFA, Andy still loves going to cattle shows and fairs. For more than 15 years, Andy's didn't miss an Arkansas State Fair. **Growing up, summer days were filled with feeding, washing, leading and taking care of his Angus show heifers.** When he was 11 years-old, he entered the show ring with his Angus heifer for showmanship. He tripped and fell to the ground and his heifer jumped over the top of him then kept on walking in line with the other cattle in the ring. All of his hard work that summer paid off when his heifer still behaved in the show ring even after he fell. He got up, dusted off his jeans, grabbed her halter and finished showing her.



Our family are avid hunters and fishermen, especially Andy. Morgan grew up hunting, but Andy taught himself when he was in college after he bought a compound bow from a friend. One of the first times Andy went hunting with his new bow, he was feeling confident in his ability to hit his target, so he only took one arrow. When an 8-point buck came out and stood at what Andy thought was 30 yards away, he let his an arrow fly. He completely misjudged the distance and the arrow went right under the deer. The deer was spooked, but ran around the pond and stopped 15 feet in front of Andy! He then realized that his only arrow was laying out of reach and **there was nothing he could do but watch this buck eat grass and acorns right in front of him.** While that hunt was unsuccessful, when we do bring home our wild game we process it ourselves and use the meat the feed our family or others in need.

We love going to concerts to see live music. While we typically prefer smaller music venues, Andy got tickets to see Zach Bryan this summer - the last show of his *Burn Burn Burn* tour. For seven months we waited to drive a few hours to Kansas City just to see the concert. We took Morgan's brothers because they love Zach Bryan, too, and we got there just in time to change, eat a couple of appetizers that Andy ordered from the hotel and go to the concert. Even though it was in a huge stadium and **we were literally in the back row, we had a blast** and sang along to every song. Your child will listen to a lot of "red dirt" country music (because Andy *always* has it playing in the truck and at our house).



# Meet the *Family*

If you choose us, your child will have four grandparents, 1 great grandma, 10 aunts and uncles and **6 cousins**.

We live less than a mile from almost all of Morgan's family. **Nearly every night we go to dinner at her parent's house.** While Morgan's mom cooks, we all stand around the kitchen and try to sneak samples off of each dish. To ward off our hungry hands, there are chips and salsa or sliced vegetables often on the counter when we get there. Some of her dinners are what we call "Mom's Concoctions," because she has a real knack for throwing together a meal of stir fried broccoli, peppers, onions, chicken and noodles. On weekends, it is common for more family and friends to come out to the farm for the day and enjoy meals together at the big table in the dining room. Your child will be around our family every day and experience the many meals we have together.



**The kids in our family are the center of attention.** A few weeks after the school year started, Andy picked up our nephews and brought them and their bikes to our house. After they got a snack, we went outside and watched as they rode their bikes up and down our driveway. Our younger nephew had just learned to ride without training wheels and he was zooming down our gravel hill. Morgan's dad even stopped to watch them ride after he finished working on the farm before he headed home. Your child will always have time with us to play and have our full attention.

Our family is **always there to help.** Andy's dad is a carpenter and taught his boys many wood-working skills. When we remodeled our Ohio home, Andy designed new cabinets, took measurements, sent them to his dad and then he made them in Arkansas. We hauled the cabinets to Ohio and installed the cabinets ourselves. We loved those cabinets and were sad to leave the house without them with us, but Andy's dad gladly built a new vanity and cabinet for our bathroom in our new home.





# Family Traditions

Each Christmas Morgan's mom and aunt put together **epic stockings**. What started out as your normal stocking has grown to customized "Santa" bags for every person. For months, we all search for stocking stuffers like Natural Ice chapstick, fun socks, kitchen utensils, candles and more. A few years ago, we didn't get toothbrush replacements in our stocking. Morgan made a mention of it to "Santa" because she had specifically been waiting for Christmas to replace her toothbrush thinking she would get a new one. Ever since, we have gotten new toothbrushes in our stockings every year.



Each February **Andy's cousins have their annual bull sale** in Nebraska and we like to go and help. The first time Morgan went, we immediately grabbed shovels and helped clean mud from the posts at the edge of the pens. Then they brought out straw for bedding and we had to use pitch forks to spread it all around by hand before setting up the heavy panels to make smaller display pens. Luckily, the second year we went they had bought a new machine that spreads straw so we didn't have to do that by hand. After the sale, they always have a party with deer chislic made by the family and friends. We look forward to going every year to catch up with family.

Morgan remembers her mom baking a **bunny cake** growing up for the kids to decorate each Easter. We decided to take the tradition to our Ohio family. The kids poured sprinkles and jelly beans all over the bunny's face and gave it Twizzlers whiskers. Morgan tried to wrangle the kids to make a prettier cake by putting the candy in more precise locations, but it just wasn't happening. **It did not look pretty, but the kids were excited to have something to contribute to Easter dinner** and were proud to show off (and taste) their work. We look forward to learning traditions you cherish so we can incorporate them in your child's life.



# Our Life *on the Farm*



**Our Arkansas home is the same house that Morgan's parents lived in when they got married.** Morgan's dad built the majority of the house. Memories have been made, and many meals have been eaten around the supper table together. We now love hosting meals for family and friends. One morning, Morgan's siblings came in from sorting cows starving. Morgan immediately began making them breakfast sandwiches and coffee. They were gracious, ate their food then went back out to finish cow work. Your child will grow up in a welcoming home with family around every day.

Because we live by the barn, twin calves are brought to our house. The first summer we moved home we had more than 10 sets of twin calves – that's not normal! At one point there were at least five calves in the barn. Morgan could feed two at once, but whichever ones she wasn't feeding would be **sucking on her arms, legs and fingers leaving them slimy with calf slobber**. For weeks, we fed the calves a bottle every twelve hours. Your child will learn to respect and care for animals.



Morgan likes to joke that the only thing she can do better than Andy is ride a horse. While Andy usually skips horseback riding, Morgan jumps at any chance to climb in the saddle. After working cows one afternoon, **Morgan lifted our niece into the saddle to ride back to the barn with her.** Our niece loves to ride, so she was giddy with excitement and chatted the whole way back to the barn - she only paused for a picture. Your child will get to experience days in the pasture on horseback and four wheelers and learn how to carefully and respectfully handle livestock.



# Every Day Life



Morgan **works from home** for a branded beef company on its marketing communications team. When we moved back home, she was able to keep her job and be remote. It is a family-first culture and they are very supportive of **flexibility** and work-life balance.



Andy sells hardscape, landscape and retaining wall products. He also **works from home** and has an office across the house from Morgan. While he has to travel for work to visit his customers, it is **flexible** and he gets to make his own travel schedule, allowing him to be home for important family needs.



One of our favorite things to do together each day is to go on walks. This started in Ohio by taking the dogs on a walk and now we walk out our front door and up the hill to one of the cattle pastures. Honey and Minnie always go with us and when we walk past the bull pasture, we always have to keep a close eye on them so they don't give in to their natural instincts and chase the bulls. On a recent walk, we got to the top of the hill the gates were open. We both thought someone forgot to shut the gates when they left the pasture, but pretty soon we could hear the bull dozer. Morgan looked at her dad's location on her phone to see that he was up there working. Your child will have quality family time every day.



## From the Bottom of Our Hearts

# *Thank You*

Thank you for letting us share our lives with you. Just as you have gotten to know us, we look forward to getting to know you.

Should you choose to become a valued part of our lives, we want you to know that your child is already loved deeply. Your child will know that your decision to place him or her into our care is an act of selfless love, great courage and part of God's plan. We look forward to raising your child with the same love, courage and strength that you showed in this decision.

"Parent" is a title we have yearned for longer than we've been together. While we wait for God's plan to unfold, we stay hopeful and eager to meet the family He has planned for us. Being entrusted to be the parents of your child would be the greatest gift we ever received.

**We will gladly share your child's milestones with you** and your family if you would like. **We want to find a way to stay in touch** so you can be a part of your child's life.

While we wait, we are praying for you and wishing you peace, comfort, strength and support.

Sincerely,

*Morgan & Andy*