

KATELYN + DEAN





Hello!

We are Katelyn and Dean! We thank you from the bottom of our hearts for taking the time to read our story and learn about our family. We are praying for peace for you as you make this life changing decision.

We know this is not an easy choice to make, but we appreciate that you are making a selfless decision for the best of your child and that speaks volumes about your character. **Please know how much we admire you.**

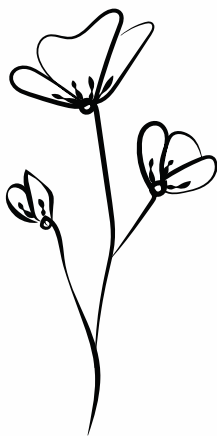
Katelyn + Dean



WHY ADOPTION...

We knew that adding to our family wouldn't be easy due to some fertility issues. So after a few years of trying, we decided to take a step back and **reflect on where we felt God was leading us.**

Following a lot of prayer and a lot of discussion, we felt that we were being called toward adoption. We know that each step of our journey has led us to where we are today, and we truly believe that adoption is God's plan for growing our family.



Our Love Story



How We Met...



Dean and I met through work and after getting to know each other, we realized we had a lot in common! We were both from South Florida and both had a love for hunting and fishing. We quickly struck up a friendship. He invited me over to his house for a BBQ with some of his friends. Going to that BBQ was the best decision I could have made! We dated for a few months and just instantly clicked like we had known each other forever. **Looking back now, we know that God led us to each other.**

How He Proposed...



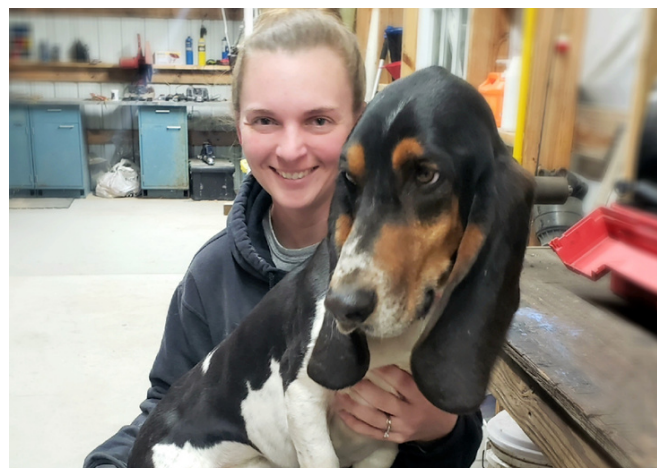
We got engaged after dating for about 4 months. Dean and I both felt that if we were dating, it was with the intention of getting married. And there is no denying that God had been writing our story long before we ever met! One evening after work, Dean took me to a property we had our hearts set on purchasing. Next thing I knew, he was kneeling in front of me with a bouquet of my favorite yellow roses and a ring! **Agreeing to marry Dean was one of the easiest decisions I've ever made.**

All About *Katelyn*

I grew up in South Florida as an only child and I spent a lot of time with my grandparents and my cousin, Danielle. I grew up with a love of horses and my parents taught me to have a strong work ethic from a very early age. If I wanted to be able to ride, I had to go to the barn and help with chores first. Riding taught me a great deal of responsibility and kept me busy all through school. I received my Bachelor's degree and then proceeded to obtain my master's in Food Safety shortly after. I traveled a lot during this time and saw many amazing places! My education led me to my current career as a Quality Assurance Specialist. I was recently promoted and I now handle the two largest customers for our company!

I love to ride horses and still have my first horse, Knight. He's 25 years old and living his best life on our property. I look forward to teaching our child to ride as well!

My faith is also very important to me. My best friend and I get together often for Bible studies. I also love listening to Christian music from bands like Casting Crowns.



My Favorite Things...

Food: Loaded curly fries!

Dessert: Warm brownie with peanut butter ice cream!

T.V. Show: The Chosen

Movie: The Proposal

Hobbies: Hunting, fishing, horseback riding, trail riding/mudding

Sport: Horseback riding, Rodeo



Dean Says....

Katelyn is my absolute best friend and my greatest blessing. Katelyn has an awesome personality, she loves to joke and have fun in everything that she does. **I love that she's not afraid to get her hands dirty and wants to be outside as much as I do.** She has a strong work ethic, but also knows how to have fun and enjoy life no matter what curveballs get thrown her way. She is very smart, loving and kind-hearted. She has helped me raise my son Austin from the time we started dating and has instilled many values in his life. She never missed a beat and immediately started helping him with homework, getting involved in football at school and everything else that comes with being a mom. I truly can't wait to see her become a mom again. **I know that she will be an amazing mom to this child just like she has been with Austin.** I know that he has been grateful to have Katelyn open her heart to him and treat him like he is her own.

All About *Dean*

I grew up in South Florida as an only child, but I had many cousins that were more like siblings. I lived with my mom growing up and we attended church with the rest of the family on Sundays. I spent a lot of time going hunting with my Dad and fishing with my cousins. **I used to go bass fishing all the time and I still love to fish to this day.**

My junior and senior year of high school, I worked on the farm that my Dad ran along with a couple other jobs. As I got older, I started working on cars and trucks. Once I graduated high school, I went straight to work and I held a couple of different jobs before becoming a concrete mixer driver. I drove a mixer for a few years, and it didn't take long for me to be promoted to a plant manager. I was in the concrete business for many years in South Florida before I moved to Alabama. This is where I would eventually meet Katelyn. Not long after we met, I had an opportunity to get back into the concrete business as a plant manager and I have since been promoted to an operations manager.



My Favorite Things...

- | | |
|-----------|--|
| Food | Steak, especially cooked in a cast iron skillet! |
| Dessert | Chocolate milkshakes! |
| T.V. Show | The Chosen |
| Movie | Fireproof |
| Vacation | Honeymoon to Nashville, TN! |
| Sports | Football and Rodeo |



Katelyn Says....

Dean has an easy going, playful personality and he really wants to enjoy life. Dean is a man of faith and he leads our family as such. He is dedicated to his family and friends. He is my biggest supporter and my best friend. **He is hard working, trustworthy, compassionate and will go out of his way to help family or friends in need.** He has been such a good example of a loving father and husband for his son. It is very important to him that we remain faithful to God and try to live our lives to glorify Him. I've watched Dean parent Austin for over 7 years, and I have seen the unconditional love that he has for his son. He has always had patience with Austin and has always set a good example for him as a responsible, kind, compassionate father while still correcting him when needed. **It has always been important to Dean that Austin knows we are here for him no matter what.**

Fun Facts

1 Dean fished in professional bass fishing tournaments for several years when he was living in South Florida.

2 We are both only children. However, we both grew up with cousins that were more like siblings.

3 Katelyn has been riding horses since she was 3 years old and still has her first horse, Knight.

4 Katelyn played on the first girl's lacrosse team at her high school.



About Us!

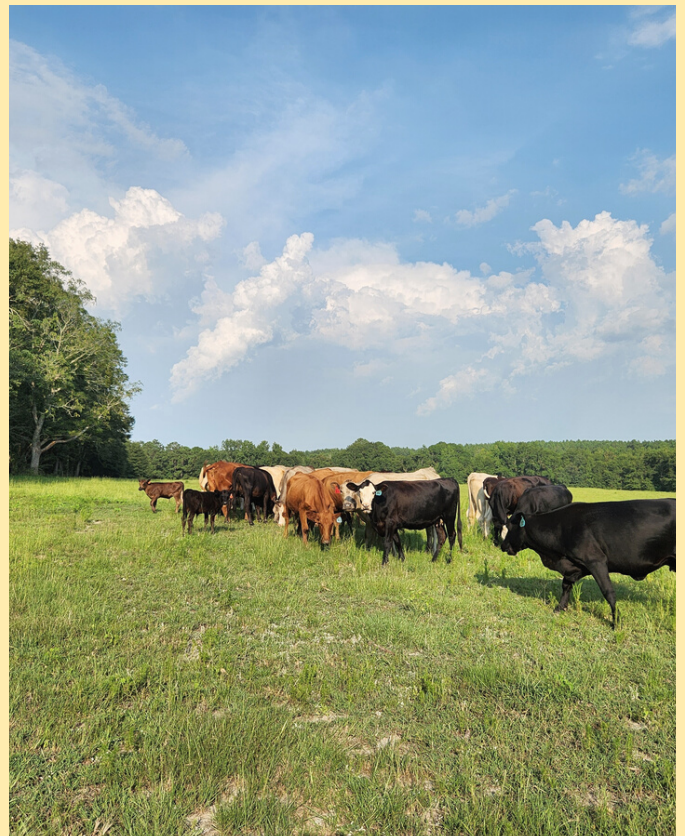
5 Dean can operate just about any piece of large equipment from excavators to dump trucks to skid steers.

6 Dean shares a birthday with Katelyn's grandmother. They were both born on December 3rd.

7 Katelyn showed horses, goats, cattle and pigs all through school in 4-H and FFA

8 Dean got to meet Tracy Lawrence on his tour bus after a concert. He even got his cowboy hat signed!

9 We first met at work when Katelyn started working at the processing plant. Turns out, they both grew up in South Florida only a few hours away from each other!



Meet Austin



Austin is Dean's 19 year old son. He graduated from high school last year and is working for a remodeling business. He is becoming a really good painter! Austin loves to ride four wheelers, go to ATV parks, hang out with his friends and work on trucks. He is currently working on rebuilding a 1991 F-150.

As a family...

We have always enjoyed fishing and hunting together as well as riding the side by side or four wheelers. Austin loves to take the four wheeler to the mud park to have some fun. We also enjoy working on different truck projects. Austin loves to work on trucks just as much as Dean. Austin lives with us and is so excited to have a sibling! He is wonderful with kids and we can't wait to watch them bond!

Hobbies We Enjoy...



We are very much an outdoors couple. We hunt, we fish, we ride four wheelers and side by sides and we have a small herd of cattle. We spend time tending to our herd on the weekends, checking calves and making sure the herd is fed and healthy. We also enjoy rebuilding vehicles and working on projects together.

We love having friends over for BBQs and bonfires and just relaxing. When we aren't outside, we like to hang out and watch movies or a good tv show together. We also spend time going out to eat with friends. In the fall we enjoy watching college football games. We do just about everything together. **We work as a team to get chores done so that we can enjoy the rest of our time doing the things we love.**





Meet our Families

Katelyn's Family

Katelyn's Mom, Andrea, has been teaching for 43 years in early education in South Florida. She is retiring in December and will be relocating close to Dean and Katelyn in Alabama! She is going to be a huge help to Dean and Katelyn and will be watching the baby once they return to work. Katelyn's Dad and Stepmom also still live in South Florida. They are both still working, but will likely retire within the next year or so. They like to visit Dean and Katelyn a few times a year. Katelyn is an only child, but she did grow up close to her cousin, Danielle, who lives just a few hours away now. Katelyn's Grandma also is still living in South Florida. Dean and Katelyn make at least one trip a year down to visit with the family.





Dean's Family

Dean's Mom, Donna, moved in with Dean and Katelyn a few years ago after she retired. Although she has retired, she is still very active and helpful around the house. She will be a big part of the baby's life in addition to Katelyn's Mom. Dean's Dad and Stepmom moved to Wyoming several years ago. Although Dean and Katelyn do not get to see them often, they do keep in touch and send each other updates and pictures as much as they can!. Dean has many aunts and uncles and lots of cousins, most of which still live in South Florida. Whenever they make a trip to South Florida, Dean and Katelyn try to visit with as many of them as they can. Dean's cousin, Levi, is married to Dayna, who was adopted as a young child and has been very open about how much of an impact her adoption has had on her life. She will be a great resource for us as we navigate discussing adoption.

Our Friends

We have a small group of friends with whom we are very close! Dean has known some of them since he first moved to Alabama over 10 years ago and some we have met in the last few years. Each one of them has shown us how amazing they are and how they would go out of their way to help others. We have some friends that love to go to ATV parks to ride trails and camp and we enjoy those weekend trips with them. We also enjoy having dinner with friends on the weekends, especially cookouts and bonfires when the weather is cooler. **Our friends are truly more like family and they are all so excited for us to grow our own family through adoption.**





HOME SWEET HOME

Our beautiful home is 2,000 square feet and has 4 bedrooms and 3 bathrooms. It is built on 50 acres, all of which we own. We built our home in February of 2019 and plan to live here forever! It is truly our happy place. Our land is surrounded by views of pastures so when we look out any window, we can see horses and cows grazing! We also have a large barn/workshop where we store our tractors and side by sides. This is also where we work on our fun projects together! We have a small herd of cattle, a horse, a miniature donkey, some pigs, a few ducks and some dogs! **It's such a wonderful place to raise a family and we can't wait for a little one to experience all that our land has to offer!**



COMMUNITY LIFE



We absolutely love where we live --a small farming town with a recreational park nearby complete with tee ball, softball and baseball teams. The park also has a playground and a splash pad for families to enjoy. We live in a very good school district as well! Though our town is small, we are only about a half hour from a larger town that has many other sports teams, restaurants, stores, etc.





In Our Home...



Faith + Prayer

We are Christians, and our faith frames everything about our life - how we view things, how we parent, how we treat others, how we respond to cultural issues and challenges, finances, and more. **Our primary goal is to glorify God in everything we do and we try to instill this goal in our kids on a daily basis.** We regularly talk about what God's Word means to us and how to apply it in every day situations. We pray throughout the day and we attend church on Sunday mornings.

Incorporating our faith into our home is a joyful endeavor that allows us to live a peace-filled life no matter what comes our way!



Dreams of the Future

We are so excited for our future as a family!

Education is important to us. Our goal for our children is to enroll them in a private Christian school once they reach Kindergarten, but we also have great public school options if that is a better fit.

We will support our children after graduation as well, and the ways in which we do that will be tailored to each child. We will happily support our children financially post-graduation as it makes sense and as we are able. We will fully support them emotionally through guidance and advice and show them that we will be there for them no matter what!

Talking about Adoption

Our new baby will always know his or her story, and **your love for them.**

Our plan is to share their adoption story in a positive and age-appropriate manner at a young age so they grow up knowing their story and feeling proud to tell it!

We will always ensure our child knows they were created for a purpose. We will lovingly answer any questions they have about being adopted, and we will follow their lead on how they tell their story to others once they are older.





“For we live by faith, not by sight.”
2 Corinthians 5:7

OUR promises

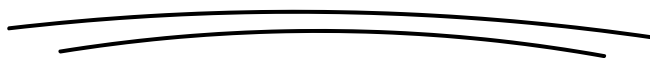
We promise to love you unconditionally and do our best to guide you in life as you grow through adulthood.

We promise to follow your lead in telling your story and remind you often that you were lovingly made by God to be exactly who you are!

We promise to give you as many opportunities to participate in sports or other activities as we can.

We promise to do our best to ensure you see as much of the world as you can so that you learn and grow to be well-rounded.

We promise to guide you towards a life of love and honor where you will grow to be confident and kind.





Thank you again for taking the time to read our story. We have you in our prayers, no matter where your decision leads you.

