



# Farmers Rock Too!

Two young men stop on a dirt road, and decide to jam to some rock music. One buddy rosins up a fiddle and begins to pull and push a bow across four strings that mimics sounds such as Jimi Hendrix. The other young man provides a beat, off the side of an old Chevrolet. That young man, keeping a beat with that fiddle, casually looks down at the ground and behold, he sees the most unusual thing he had ever saw.

He notices a lizard stopped right in his tracks. This lizard was not standing still, and it was not afraid of these two adolescences, either. In fact, it just rocked back and forth as if it were front row center at the Jimi Hendrix concert that was cancelled in Lubbock many years ago. The young man learned that all things in nature are connected with music, including the sounds of a Rock'n Farmer Mike Abell.

"All music is good, but by the time I was in high school myself and my friends decided that uh, well we like Rock n Roll better. So we went that direction," explained Mike Abell. He grew up in Crosby County about 40 minutes east of Lubbock, but was born in Missouri in 1952, where his dad ran a Dairy Farm. Today, Abell farms cotton and milo in Crosby County now. But even after 37 years of farming, music is still his other passion.

"I never dreamed that I would be a farmer, I thought it was just drive in one end of the field and turn around come back to the other field," as Abell chuckled.

In high school Abell really turned to music as it inspired him.

"What they don't realize is that; you're out here

and you see the horizons all the way around," Abell said. "You don't realize that... you're sitting there in heaven, until you hear the music to go with it."

Out of all of the music Abell has embraced, consumed, and jammed to, he was quick to answer that the Beatles were by far his favorite band and that their music has had a great impact on him. Through our conversation, sure there was discussion on Led Zeppelin, Willie Nelson, Canned Heat, Janis Joplin, Jimi Hendrix, the Rolling Stones, and many more rock and older country greats. But it is the local bands Abell has cherished the most.

"I've been really blessed, to really know a lot of local musicians," Abell said. "They call me friend, brother and I mean they are way nicer to me than I deserve."

With roots forever sunk in the loamy soils of West Texas, Abell will always remember names such as: Randy Crouch who has been a friend of Abell's since before they met that Rock'n Lizard, The Griffin Adams Band, Doug Smith, and The Planets.

"You know there were a lot of musicians that would always ask me what was going on in the world of farming, and they were genuinely interested," Abell said. "It just opens up other ways of thinking, Music helps me stay in the right state of mind, and that allows me to think about innovations toward my business and my farming techniques," explained Abell 🎸



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