



Milton Eugene "Geno" Evans Jr.

President, Florida Aquaculture Association

Chair, Florida Department of Agriculture – Aquaculture Review Council

Board Member, National Aquaculture Association

Milton Eugene "Geno" Evans Jr. is a fifth-generation Floridian and lifelong advocate for agriculture, aquaculture, and land stewardship. Born in Orange City and raised in Pierson, Geno grew up immersed in Florida's farming traditions. His early involvement in 4-H and FFA shaped a career centered on innovation, sustainability, and rural prosperity.

Geno's agricultural roots trace back to his great-great-grandfather, "Papa Hatcher," an orange grower in DeLand. That legacy lives on at Evans Farms, founded by his parents in 1982. Spanning 2,600 acres, the farm is nationally recognized as a pioneer in land-based aquaculture — one of the first U.S. producers of Hybrid Striped Bass and among the few caviar operations cultivating multiple sturgeon species in closed-loop systems. Evans Farms also produces Florida Largemouth Bass, Bluegill, Tilapia, hay, forage crops, and maintains a 200-head cattle operation.

A true family enterprise, Evans Farms includes Geno's mother, Marilyn; his siblings, Todd Evans and Jane Davis; his son, Trae, who leads field and conservation operations; his daughter, Kandi, who manages cattle operations; his granddaughter, Kalie; and his niece, Lauren Mazzola, a graduate of Auburn University's aquaculture program.

Agricultural Leadership & Conservation

Geno is a recognized conservationist and agricultural innovator:

- Manages multi-breed cow/calf operations (Angus, Beefmaster, Brahman, Brangus, Charolais, Florida Cracker)
- Oversees over 350 acres of hay and forage with advanced soil and water practices
- Certified Burn Manager (2010–2025), specializing in wildlife and habitat land management
- Longtime partner with USDA NRCS, engaged in EQIP, CSP, and RCPP programs

Public Service & Industry Engagement

Geno brings decades of experience to leadership and advisory roles across the agricultural sector:

- President, Florida Aquaculture Association
- Chair, Aquaculture Review Council, Florida Department of Agriculture (Governor-appointed)
- Board Member, National Aquaculture Association
- Board Member, Volusia County Farm Bureau
- Member, Florida Fish and Wildlife Invasive Species Task Force
- Member, FDACS Feed and Seed Steering Committee
- Member, Florida State Agricultural Response Team (SART) Steering Committee

With more than 30 years in aquaculture and agribusiness, Geno remains dedicated to protecting Florida's natural resources, advancing responsible food production, and preserving the heritage of family farming for future generations.