

Let's get to know Elizabeth Allenbaugh

Elizabeth Allenbaugh talks about flying, farming, and family.

1. Where did you grow up? Go to School? What degrees do you hold? I grew up in rural North Carolina. At 16, we moved to Wichita, Kansas, where I finished high school before heading south to Oklahoma State University where I graduated with a degree in Aerospace Administration and Operations. I promptly accepted an internship with Piper Aircraft, making the move to Vero Beach in early 2010.

2. Tell us about your family? How did you meet your husband? How many children do you have? How long have you lived in Vero? If you are seasonal, where else do you spend your time? After a few months of interning at Piper I was offered a full-time position. It wasn't too long before one of the mechanical engineers caught my eye. His name was Jacob. We married and now have two children, Olive (7) and Jude (4).

3. Tell us about your job? What is the highlight? My husband Jacob and I have our own business, Pusher Intakes, designing and building performance parts for light diesel trucks (like a Ford F250). Jacob started the business out of his garage while attending Florida Tech. He continued to grow the business while at Piper, and after a few years felt confident to fly the nest. A few months later, I joined him. Nine years later we have grown the business into a team of 14. It's been amazing, challenging, freeing, terrifying – but no matter the ups and downs, getting to work with Jacob and having the flexibility to work around the time spent with our children has been so gratifying.

4. What are your favorite hobbies? I very much love cooking (not so much baking), yoga, gardening, and farming. We are fortunate to have 5 acres for our kids to tromp all over, and have an assortment of chickens, pigs, and sheep.

5. What's a fun fact about you not many people know? I started flying when I was 17, and earned my pilot's license at 19. I'm not current, not having flown since my daughter was born, but I do look forward to getting back in the left seat one day.

6. If you could invite one person, living or deceased, to dinner, who would it be and why? I'd love to have dinner with my grandmother, Granny Kat. I think as a child you don't know what you're missing, how you can't truly see or understand the people around you because you're coming from such different places. She passed away when I was in college, but now that I am a mother, I wish so badly to know who she was.

7. Where's your favorite vacation? In February of 2020 we traveled to Puerto Rico. It was wonderful, and I loved every minute of exploring the island. The food, the music, the culture – it was fantastic.

8. What's the last book you read? I'm a bit of a book addict, averaging a few a week. I just finished *When We Believed* in Mermaids by Barbara O'Neal. It hit all the bases – dealing with past trauma, sibling relationships, romance, and of course – very descriptive food scenes.

9. What three words best describe you: Curious, stubborn, creative

10. What one food can you not live without? Avocados

11. Why did you join Impact 100? Did someone refer you? My mother Becky Groom, also a member, was kind enough to gift me my first membership. I'm at a place in my life – with small kids, a growing business and our little farm – where I just don't have as much time as I want to devote to helping others. As a result, in my three years with Impact 100, I've simply donated and voted.

12. You've been a member of Impact 100 for three years. What do you love most about being a member? Being a part of such a powerful group of women, even while on the sidelines, means so much to me. I feel proud of my membership contribution and have immense trust in this group and the grant committees as they put in the time and research on our behalf to raise up our community. I do look forward to becoming more involved when my season of life changes, but for now, I'm just happy to be a part of making a real impact.

13. What is your superpower? Researching and solving problems. I probably average an hour a day Googling whatever questions pop into my head.

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