

Century Notes



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A Semi-Annual Newsletter About Ohio's Bicentennial and Century Farms Published by the Ohio Department of Agriculture

Ohio Ag Week Spotlights Bicentennial Farms

To highlight the program's inaugural year, a Pickaway County farm was inducted into the Bicentennial Farm program during the opening ceremony of Ohio Agriculture Week on Monday, March 11, 2013. The Fagan Family's Der Decker Baurenhoff ("The Decker Farm") was officially recognized as the first Ohio Bicentennial Farm in the state.

Founded in 1809 by Luke Decker, the farm currently consists of more than 225 acres. The family home was built circa 1815 and has been extensively restored to reflect that era.

The Vanmeter Family Farm in Pike County hosted a visit from Ohio Department of Agriculture Director David T. Daniels on Friday of Ag Week. Their farm was established in 1801 by Isaac Vanmeter. Today, the family raises crops and manages timber on its 1,250 acres.

The Ohio Bicentennial Farm program recognizes farms which have been in the same family for at least 200 years. There are 64 Century Farms currently eligible for this new designation.



Ohio Department of Agriculture Director David T. Daniels (left) presents a Bicentennial Farm certificate to three generations of the Fagan family (second from left): Bob Fagan, Kenneth Smith, Irene Fagan, Ann (Fagan) Smith, Terry Smith, and Eileen Smith.

News & Updates for the Next Newsletter

Please keep in touch, and let us know of any news you would like to share in the next newsletter (Jan./Feb. 2014).



Ohio Bicentennial Farms

This summer and fall the Ohio Department of Agriculture is paying tribute to Ohio's Bicentennial Farms at an event scheduled at the family's local fair.

If you know of a farm which has been in the same family for at least 200 years, there may still be time to join the celebration and be recognized for the family's contributions to Ohio agriculture.

Please contact Cindy Shy at cindy.shy@agri.ohio.gov or 614-752-9817 for information.

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**OHIO
CENTURY
FARM**

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A Message from Director David Daniels

Congratulations to the Fagan Family of Pickaway County on their recognition as the first Ohio Bicentennial Farm. It was an honor to meet them during Ohio Ag Week and learn a little about their history.

That same week, I visited another Bicentennial Farm Family - the Vanmeters of Pike County. This is another family with a rich heritage who has added much to our state's history.

Although each family has a unique history, I noticed a couple of common traits, including pride and respect for family and their past.

As we move into summer, consider planning a visit to your local county or independent fair. There is much for you to enjoy there, and I encourage you to check it out.

This summer, I will continue visiting Ohio's fairs with an added bonus of meeting Ohio's Bicentennial Farm families. We will honor 64 farm families at their local fair this year. There aren't many businesses that have been around longer, and it's impressive to hear about the history forged by each family.

I look forward to seeing you at the fair!

David T. Daniels, Director
Ohio Department of Agriculture



Pike County - Vanmeter Family

The Vanmeter Family hosted a visit from Director David Daniels on Friday, March 15, as part of Ohio Agriculture Week. Director Daniels was treated with an overview of the farm's history and he presented the family with a proclamation from the Governor, recognizing their current and past contributions to the agriculture industry.

Honoring Our Heritage: Ohio Century Farms

Cuyahoga County - Giere Family

Maplecrest Farm in Brecksville was established in 1839 by founder Chessman Miller. The farm was a grain and dairy operation prior to construction of Route 77 in the 1960s, when much of their farmland was lost. Today, Maplecrest includes a horse training, boarding and riding facility operated by sixth and seventh generation family members Meredith Giere and Stacey Giere. Seventh-generation Brant Giere and Carol Sahley reside in the family homestead, and are raising a flock of rare breed chickens and several pygmy and Nigerian dwarf goats. Right: Photo used by permission of photographer Carol Sahley.



Seneca County - Platt Family

Working to preserve their family's heritage, Jerry and Susan Coppus Platt have restored their family homestead to its early 1900s condition (left). Jerry is restoring their 1860/70s-era barn, originally built by Susan's great great grandfather, David Peter, with materials recycled from dismantled barns from that era. The land has been in their family since 1835, when Susan's ancestor and the original deed holder of the land, Jacob Fruth Sr., first acquired it. The Platts have two daughters who grew up on the land as well as three grandchildren who enjoy their farm. They hope that their grandchildren will continue the traditions of their family long into the future.

Morgan County - McCormick Family

Throughout the years, Chester and Dorothea McCormick have witnessed many changes, such as the introduction of electricity and the arrival of the first tractor, on their Century Farm. They still use the bank barn - one of the county's oldest, built in the 1850s, measuring 35' x 70' with a full basement and original slate roof - for their beef cattle (right). The family home sits on a ridge overlooking valleys on all sides. The porches located on the west side of the house offer an impressive view, and are the reason for the farm's name: West View Farm.



Pike County - Schmidt Family

The Schmidt's Overlook Hills Farm was certified as a Tree Farm by the American Tree Farm System in 1955, with John V. Schmidt taking over management of the farm in 1965. He is the only Ohioan to be named as the National Tree Farmer of the Year (1989), and was also named Ohio Tree Farmer of the Year and Regional Tree Farmer of the Year (1988). Left: John (center, red shirt) and son John P. (third from right) hosted a Southern Ohio Forestry Association meeting on the farm in May, with Lee Crocker, Ohio Regional Biologist NWTF (second from left), providing information to the group. Photo courtesy of Abbe Copple, NRCS.





Ohio Bicentennial Farm Families

Congratulations to the following families who qualify for the Ohio Bicentennial Farm designation:

County	Name	Year	County	Name	Year
Adams	Smiley	1772	Highland	Bellamy	1809
Adams	Kirker	1793	Jackson	Ray	1804
Adams	Gelter	1800	Jefferson	Swickard	1807
Adams	McCormick	1805	Jefferson	Kithcart	1808
Adams	Nixon Family	1811	Mahoning	Anderson	1809
Belmont	Martin	1805	Miami	Iddings	1812
Belmont	Theaker	1808	Montgomery	Henry	1807
Brown	Bick	1798	Perry	Poorman	1808
Brown	Shay	1801	Pickaway	Conner	1803
Butler	Van Gorden	1807	Pickaway	Cromley	1803
Butler	Alexander	1809	Pickaway	Fagan	1809
Champaign	Evans	1812	Pike	Vanmeter	1801
Clark	Wallace	1802	Portage	Moore	1813
Clark	Wolfe	1805	Preble	Bailey	1790
Clark	Stickney	1805	Preble	New Twin Creek Farm	1804
Columbiana	Hively	1807	Preble	Garrett	1808
Columbiana	Bowman	1811	Preble	McCreary Homestead	1808
Coshocton	Schumaker	1811	Preble	Hildebolt	1811
Fairfield	Smith	1799	Preble	Hays	1812
Fairfield	Miller	1806	Ross	Cory	1800
Fairfield	Rowles	1807	Ross	Chenoweth	1801
Fairfield	Berry	1811	Ross	Bowdle	1802
Fairfield	Berry	1811	Ross	Dill	1803
Fairfield	Neeley	1813	Ross	McIlvaine	1810
Fayette	Smith	1813	Scioto	Patten	1796
Franklin	Wildermuth	1809	Stark	Howenstine	1809
Greene	Wildman	1803	Summit	Call	1803
Greene	Harper	1806	Trumbull	Caldwell	1805
Greene	Schmidt	1806	Trumbull	Lillie	1811
Greene	Dean	1812	Trumbull	Keir	1812
Hamilton	Turpin Farms	1785	Warren	Cook	1804
Highland	Surber	1802	Wayne	Ewing	1812

For more information on the Ohio Bicentennial and Century Farm programs, visit the program website at www.agri.ohio.gov/divs/cent_farms/, or contact Cindy Shy at cindy.shy@agri.ohio.gov or 614-752-9817.