

Portraits of Longevity: 1999 Century Farm Finalists

Winner Announced for Century Farm Award



David Keener and his wife, Karen, are owners of Keener's Walnut Grove Farm in Dayton (Montgomery County). The original founder, John Keener, purchased 160 acres in 1831. The farm now raises corn, soybeans, and wheat on the original tract.



Jim Schumaker and his wife, Wendy, are owners of the Schumaker Farm in West Lafayette (Coshocton County). The original founder, Francis McGuire, purchased 1,496 acres in 1811. The farm now raises corn, soybeans, alfalfa, and wheat on 300 acres.



1999 Century Farm Winner:
Dennis Homan and his wife, Louise, and son Roger own the Homan Farm, in Maria Stein (Mercer County). The original founder, Joseph Homan, purchased 79.38 acres in 1888. The farm now raises corn, soybeans, wheat, alfalfa, and feeder cattle on 145 acres.



Robert Bender is the owner of Suits Us Farms, located in Prospect (Marion County). The original founder, Justin Bender, purchased 47.5 in 1842. The farm now raises corn, soybeans, wheat, and operates a swine-to-finish hog operation on 169 acres.

The Homan family of Mercer County was named The 1999 Century Farm Award Winner at the Farm Science Review in September.

The Homan family was one of eight families chosen as finalists at the Ohio State Fair in August for the Ohio's Outstanding Century Farm Awards -- an annual recognition given to productive farms held in the same family for the past 100 years or more.

Governor Bob Taft recognized the achievements and tenacity of eight Ohio farm finalists at a ceremony at the Ohio State Fair.

These families have seen their farm evolve from self-sufficient homesteads to farms that produce food that feeds not only Ohio, but the country and the world. The eight families listed have been chosen from a field of more than 400 applicants.

The Outstanding Century Farm Awards Program, now in its seventh year, is a joint project of the ODA, the Ohio Historical Society, and *Ohio's Country Journal*. Finalists were chosen for their commitment to preserving their heritage, their contribution to the agriculture community, and their environmental stewardship.

"I applaud the tremendous commitment these eight families have made to our state's agricultural industry and offer a special congratulations to the Homan family, the 1999 Century Farm winner," said Dailey.



John Morford and his wife, Arlene, are owners of the Morford Farm in Kinsman (Trumbull County). The original founder, Peter Lossee, purchased 104 acres and "eight rods" in 1812. The farm now raises corn, soybeans, oats, and wheat on 198 acres.



Steve Arters is the owner of the Arters Farm in Spencer (Medina County). The original founder, Luther Clapp, purchased 200 acres in 1832. Steve, with parents, Robert and Loretta Arters, wife, Sue and two sons, Tyler and Tate, farm corn, soybeans, hay, and feeder calves on 1,300 acres.



Dorothy Stewart is the owner of the Stewart farm in Jackson (Jackson County). The original founder, William T. Stewart, purchased 80 acres in 1899. Dorothy, her sons, Tom and Tim, and Tim's son, Seth, carry on the legacy and raise Angus cattle and hay on 308 acres.



Robert Harness is the owner of the Harness Farm with Mary F. Bowman, Daniel R. Harness, Ann E. Perdue, and Elizabeth J. Collins Estate in Chillicothe (Ross County). The original founder, George Harness, purchased 1,765 acres in 1803. The farm now raises corn, soybeans, and wheat on 1,128 acres.