

# Century Notes



Summer 2012 Volume 1, Issue 2

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

## Century Farm Owners Co-Host Ohio Agriculture Day



John and Connie Surber co-hosted this year's Ohio Agriculture Day on March 15 at Feed the World, an international livestock shipping facility in Sabina. Ohio Department of Agriculture Director David Daniels (*left*) congratulated the Surbers on their commitment to Ohio agriculture. John and brother James own two Highland County Century Farms established in 1802 and 1847.

Ohio Agriculture Day is celebrated during the second full week of March, which is designated annually as Ohio Agriculture Week. The Ag Day 2012 theme was the global impact of Ohio's agriculture industry.

**Ag**riculture  
**is COOL!**

Century Farm families have always known that "Ag is Cool!" Now the state's ag groups are working together to share this concept with everyone at the State Fair. Ag is Cool program benefits include:

- Free admission for each 4th-grader (2011-2012 school year) and chaperone, plus a chance to win a \$500 scholarship
- Free admission for 4th-grade teachers, plus a chance to win a \$2,500 grant
- Students K-12 can enter a creative agricultural art contest for prizes

Learn more at <http://www.agri.ohio.gov/agiscool/> or 614-752-9817.

### News & Updates for the Next Newsletter

It's always good to hear from century farm families. Please keep in touch, and let us know of any news you would like to share with your fellow century farmers in the next newsletter (Jan./Feb. 2013).

### National Century Farm Website Updates

*Ohio Century Farm Stories Wanted*  
**Congratulations to the Kloeppel Brothers of Delphos (est. 1858, Putnam County) for becoming the first Ohio farm profiled on the American Farm Bureau's Century Farms website** ([agricultureslastingheritage.org/profiles/](http://agricultureslastingheritage.org/profiles/)). The profile recounts how founder Frederick Kloeppel, a blacksmith, traveled from Cincinnati via the Miami-Erie Canal to reach his new home in Putnam County.

By adding their profile, Kloeppel Brothers are helping to promote an understanding of Ohio's agricultural heritage. Join in by nominating your farm for a feature on the website (click on "Submit Your Own Profile" or send an email to [alh@fb.org](mailto:alh@fb.org)).

#### **Social Media from the American Farm Bureau:**

**Facebook** - <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Agricultures-Lasting-Heritage/245037802247645>

**Twitter** - @AgHeritage

John R. Kasich, Governor  
Mary Taylor, Lt. Governor  
David T. Daniels, Director



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# A Message from Director David Daniels

Greetings to all of Ohio's Century Farm Families.

I'm David Daniels, director of the Ohio Department of Agriculture as of February 15, 2012. As director of this agency, I tell everyone how proud I am of Ohio's food and agriculture industry and the hard-working farmers who have grown it into the number one industry in this state.

Growing up on a farm in Highland County, I witnessed first-hand the highs and lows of farming, and that helps give me an appreciation for you and your family's histories.

Besides living and working on a farm, I have even more in common with you – my farm may also qualify as an Ohio Century Farm. My family is currently working on the registration form, and I hope to share with you the good news of our Century Farm designation by the time the next Century Notes newsletter arrives.

Thank you for all that you do for Ohio and its agriculture industry.

Sincerely,  
David T. Daniels, Director  
Ohio Department of Agriculture



## Ohio's Oldest Registered Century Farms

The 240-year old Smiley farm in Adams County claims the distinction of oldest farm registered in the Ohio Century Farm program. In 1772, King George III deeded 500+ acres to family patriarch Alexander Smiley in what was then part of Virginia. Smiley family ownership

predates Adams County becoming a county of the Northwest Territory (1797) and Ohio statehood (1803).

The Smiley farm is the only Ohio Century Farm established prior to our nation's independence; however, seven additional registered farms were founded prior to 1800. These include:

- Fischer (Hamilton), 1785
- Bailey (Preble), 1790
- Kirker (Adams), 1793
- Patten (Scioto), 1796
- Bick (Brown), 1798
- Harness (Ross), 1798
- Smith (Fairfield), 1799

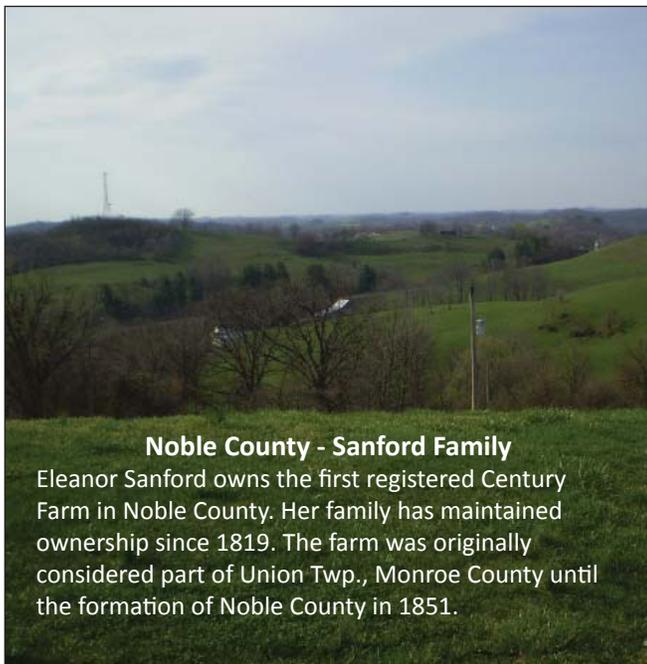


*Shown left, the Smiley family's cherry cupboard, saved from the family's original log home.*

# Honoring Our Heritage: Ohio Century Farms

## Columbiana County - Hively Family

John Hively, Columbiana County, received the Distinguished Service award at the annual meeting of the Columbiana County Farm Bureau Federation in Oct. 2011. John has an extensive history of involvement with local farm boards and organizations. The Highland Farm was settled by great-great-great grandfather Michael Hively in 1807, and John has been active in farm operations since 1967.

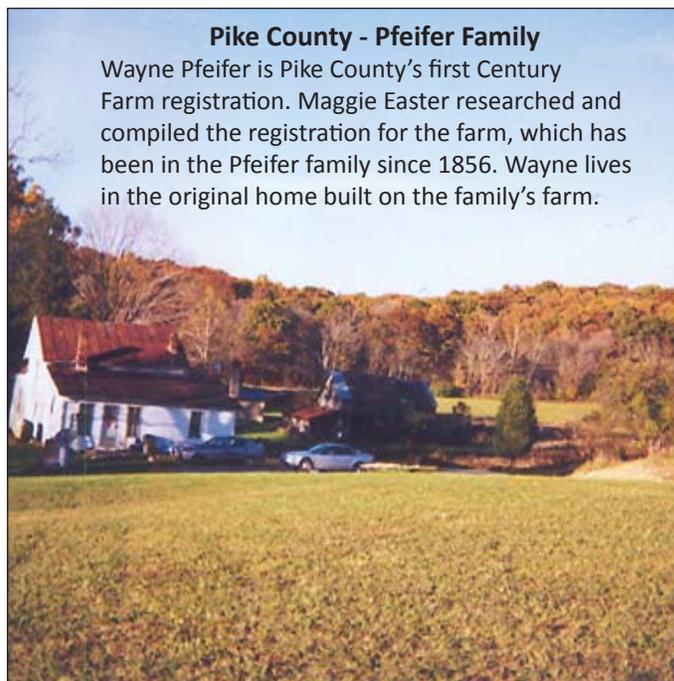


## Noble County - Sanford Family

Eleanor Sanford owns the first registered Century Farm in Noble County. Her family has maintained ownership since 1819. The farm was originally considered part of Union Twp., Monroe County until the formation of Noble County in 1851.

## Pike County - Pfeifer Family

Wayne Pfeifer is Pike County's first Century Farm registration. Maggie Easter researched and compiled the registration for the farm, which has been in the Pfeifer family since 1856. Wayne lives in the original home built on the family's farm.

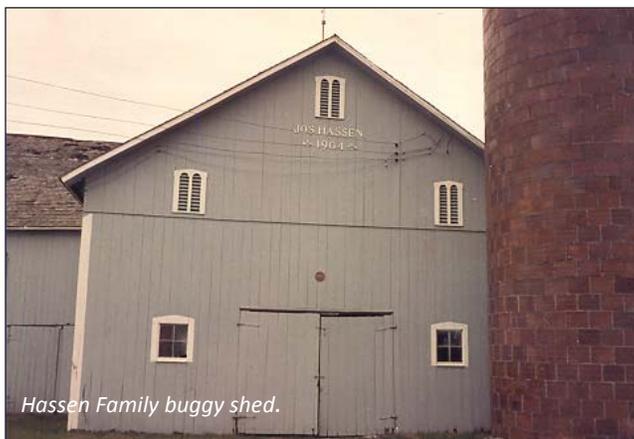


## Shelby County - Baumer Family

Sara and Stanley Baumer were recognized for their Century Farm status at the first of the Ag Breakfast Series meetings in Piqua. Offering congratulations at the event were Dr. Richard Adams, representative for the 79th District of the Ohio House of Representatives, and Brian Raison, OSU community development educator. The Baumer's farm was founded in 1911 by Stanley's great-grandfather Gerhard Baumer.

## Lucas County - Hassen Family

Congratulations to Mary Jo Hassen for registering her family's second Century Farm in 2012. Both of her farms are located in Lucas County, and were founded in 1869 and 1895. Shown *below* is the buggy shed portion of the main barn on her 1869 farm.



Hassen Family buggy shed.



Utle family 1951 tractor.

## Coshocton County - Utle Family

Mark Utle recently accepted an agriculture easement on his Coshocton County Century Farm. The farm was established in 1832, and was the first in the county to preserve farmland via an easement with the state. Shown *above*, Mark was able to find and return to the farm his grandfather's restored 1951 John Deere tractor.

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### Adams County - Swearingen Family

Mark, Erica, Matthew and Katelynn Swearingen's farm was registered as a surprise gift to them by Mark's Aunt Sharon Chenoweth in 2011. Ms. Chenoweth presented the family with their certificate and sign at the Swearingen family picnic at Adams Lake State Park in June. The family was featured in a Feb. 22, 2012 article in *The People's Defender*.



Sharon Chenoweth (right) presents an Ohio Century Farm Sign and certificate to the Swearingen Family.

### Preble County - Hildebolt Family

The Hildebolt family celebrated the 200th anniversary of their Preble County century farm in 2011. Founding ancestor Silas Dooley, Sr. was the first settler in Gasper Twp., and was granted the first marriage license in Preble County. His initial residence was a three-sided hut with a bearskin rug, then a log cabin, and finally a timber and frame home built circa 1830. The family is in possession of the land grant signed by President James Madison and Secretary of State James Monroe.

## Do I Own Two Century Farms?

The following general guidelines may help determine whether your family has one or more century farms.

Exceptions to these guidelines may exist; please email or call if you have questions about registering a second farm.

- To register as a Century Farm, ODA must be able to track at least one parcel of the farm (hopefully the oldest parcel, in order to register the farm at its earliest date) from generation to generation. Once the chain of title has been proven, all parcels adjoining the land described in the deeds are considered part of the Century Farm, regardless of date purchased.
- Non-contiguous farmland (land doesn't touch any parcels of the first Century Farm) may qualify as a second registration, and would require a completed registration form with deed copies.
- If two adjoining farms are involved, do they have different chains of title with unique sets of deeds?

## Century Farm Signs Available



Signs are available for purchase by Ohio Century Farm owners on an on-going basis. Price is \$57.80 without personalization, or \$75.46 personalized. Signs are double-sided, made of aluminum and measure 24" x 20.25" (or 30" x 20.25" with personalization plate).

Orders are processed through the Ohio Department of Agriculture to ensure exclusive access to century farm families.

*Erica and Mark Swearingen pose with their children Matthew and Katelynn with their Century Farm sign. The Swearingen Farm was established in 1875.*