

Century Notes




Winter 2012 Volume 1, Issue 1

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

2011 Century Farms

Fifty-two farms were recognized by the Ohio Department of Agriculture in 2011 as century farms.

Each family received a certificate signed by Governor John R. Kasich and the Director of the Ohio Department of Agriculture to keep with their historic documents and pass down to future generations.

Congratulations to the following families who registered their farms in 2011:

County	Name	Year Est.	County	Name	Year Est.
Adams	Swearingen	1875	Fairfield	Berry (2 farms)	1811
Allen	Badertscher	1868	Fairfield	McManus	1850
Allen	Bilen	1853	Fairfield	Solt	1909
Allen	Sidey	1883	Hancock	Van Sant	1877
Ashland	Elson	1908	Hardin	Eibling	1907
Auglaize	Albers	1835	Hardin	Sanders	1865
Butler	Beeler	1901	Hardin	Wagner	1833
Champaign	Detwiler	1904	Henry	Bechtol	1910
Clark	Ackerman	1888	Hocking	Brimner	1910
Clark	Bowman	1910	Knox	Dudgeon	1831
Clark	Goodfellow	1902	Lake	West	1891
Clark	King	1896	Lorain	Greene	1909
Clark	Stickney	1805	Madison	Hunter	1910
Clinton	Branstrator	1904	Mercer	Moeder (2 farms)	1873
Clinton	Stephens	1911	Mercer	Thieman	1869
Columbiana	Huston	1842	Morgan	Bragg	1902
Columbiana	Little	1907	Putnam	Hoersten	1908
Crawford	Pope	1885	Putnam	Maag	1879
Defiance	Reagle	1865	Putnam	Pierman	1910
Defiance	Steinberger	1872	Putnam	Risser	1864
Defiance	Weber	1908	Putnam	Verhoff	1911
Delaware	Watkins	1897	Sandusky	Gerwin	1900
Delaware	Watkins	1881	Shelby	Baumer	1911
Delaware	Watkins	1892	Union	Bouic	1906
			Wood	Karns (2 farms)	1865

Don't Miss Out on Future Editions

This is the first published newsletter for Ohio's Century Farm program. In order to save expenses, this is the only time it will be mailed.

To receive future editions, please send your e-mail address to centuryfarms@agri.ohio.gov.

Be sure to include your name, farm name, and other contact information for continued communication. If the farm has changed ownership, please provide these details as well.

Future newsletters will also be posted to the department's website:
www.agri.ohio.gov/divs/cent_farms/.

Making a Difference

Wendell Litt is a long-time friend of Ohio's century farms and is making a difference to Ohio's farming community.

His interest in Muskingum and Guernsey counties is enthusiastic and contagious. A retired OSU Extension agent, Wendell organized information to commemorate Muskingum County's 100-year farms. He served as chair of the Heritage Farm Committee, helping to oversee book publication of these family histories in 2002. Wendell then worked to encourage these farms to apply to the state's Ohio Century Farm program, and also provided information to the state to help promote 'his' farms.

Thank you, Wendell, for your efforts to identify and register farms in Muskingum and Guernsey counties.



Department of
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Sponsored by the Ohio Department of Agriculture

Welcome to

Century Notes

Welcome to the first edition of Century Notes, a newsletter for Ohio's century farm owners.

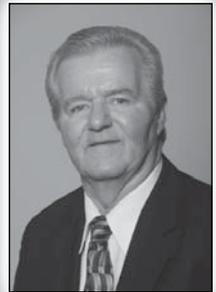
This edition and future editions will help keep you informed about upcoming events and news regarding Ohio's century farms.

Every Outstanding Century Farm Family has its own unique history, dedication to the land, and admirable way of continuing their farm. It is for all of these reasons that each family is a wonderful – but different – testament to Ohio's agricultural heritage.

The department is interested in hearing about any new development with your farm's history. If your family or farm is celebrating something special, or if you have something unique to share, please drop us a line so we can include it in future editions.

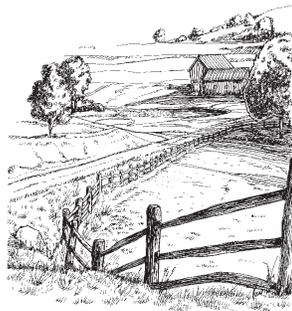
I appreciate all that you do to support Ohio agriculture.

Sincerely,
Tony Forshey, DVM, Interim Director
Ohio Department of Agriculture



A Brief History: Ohio's Century Farm Program

The Outstanding Ohio Century Farm program began in 1993, with families competing to be named as the outstanding farm of the year. With so many deserving applicants, the decision was made in 2003 to honor each qualifying century farm. As a result of this change, there are now more than 850 farms registered as Ohio Century Farms.



representatives who have an interest in farming, community and local history to help promote the program.

A website devoted to Ohio's Century Farms is found at www.agri.ohio.gov/divs/cent_farms/. It includes an up-to-date listing of registrants by county, information on the original program (including outstanding honorees), and a downloadable registration form.

The current Ohio Century Farm recognition program operates within the Office of Communication at the Ohio Department of Agriculture. The department partners with

A century farm yard sign was commissioned by the department in 2005, and is available for purchase exclusively by Century Farm families.

Century Farms Now in 85 of Ohio's 88 Counties

With more than 850 farms registered across the state, it would be a logical assumption that each county has at least one farm registered as a Century Farm at the Ohio Department of Agriculture. In actuality, there are three counties - Athens, Noble and Pike - not yet represented.

Many people who contact the department about the program indicate they didn't know the Ohio Century Farm Program existed until they saw their neighbor's yard sign or read an article in their local paper. With limited staffing, the problem is how to reach out across the state to raise awareness about the program.

Local partner networks have formed, and are forming, with



historical groups, Soil and Water Conservation districts, Farm Bureau offices, Extension offices and county recorders across the state. The partners help identify potential farms, encourage interest, assist with applications, celebrate with the recipient, and inform the office if any ownership changes occur to the registered farms.

Materials available to program partners include a tabletop display, brochures, and the loan of exhibit panels formerly used at the State Fair and Farm Science Review.

If you would like to help identify your county's century farms, please contact program administrator Cindy Shy at 614-752-9817 or centuryfarms@agri.ohio.gov.

Upcoming Century Farm Landmarks

- The Century Farm program is closing in on 1,000 registered farms. We currently stand at just under 900. Typically 50-60 new farms are registered each year.
- Registered century farms are located in 85 counties; we need Athens, Noble and Pike registrations in order to hit all of Ohio's 88 counties.

We need your help to spread the word about this program! Please refer potential registrations to Cindy Shy: centuryfarms@agri.ohio.gov or 614-752-9817.

National Century Farm Project

Did you know that other states also recognize their century farms? And that The American Farm Bureau Foundation for Agriculture has conveniently combined information from participating states onto one website, www.agricultureslastingheritage.org?

While wandering through the site, be sure to spend some time on the 'Profiles' page. The videos and written profiles are a nice pat on the back for these families. Your family can also be recognized by writing and submitting your family's profile online to the American Farm Bureau.

Ohio's Bicentennial Farms

Perserverance is a term that applies to all Century Farm families. It's amazing to think that a single family has witnessed all the joys and endured all the struggles on that same farm for 100 years.

Even more mind-boggling is when a family has owned the same farm since before Ohio became a state, even before the nation achieved independence. And that is the case with Ohio's oldest registered farm, which dates back to 1772 and is located in Adams County.

Many of the registered Ohio Century Farms qualify as bicentennial farms, remaining in the same family for at least 200 years. While these farms are known to belong to that special bicentennial category, they have never been formally recognized as such by the department. A Bicentennial Farm program is under consideration. Farms currently registered in the Ohio Century Farm program would be eligible for this recognition; no additional registration would be required.

Century Farm Signs Available

Century Farm signs are available for purchase on an on-going basis exclusively to all Ohio century farm owners. Since 2005, more than 300 signs have been ordered for distribution across the state.

Signs are made of aluminum, measure 24" x 20.25" (or 30" x 20.25" with an optional nameplate), and are produced by the Scioto Sign Company. All orders are processed through the Ohio Department of Agriculture to ensure that only century farm families have access.

For an order form, contact Cindy Shy at centuryfarms@agri.ohio.gov or 614-752-9817.



Future *Century Notes*

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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