

Century Farm state winner



ABN Farm Director Ed Johnson, far left, and ODA Director Fred L. Dailey present the Rohrer family Ella, Milton, Velda, David, Paul, Alta, John and Cary Rohrer, with a bronze plaque designating their farm as the 1996 Ohio's Outstanding Century Farm.

The farm Jonathon Smucker purchased in 1861 has undergone more than a century of change and continues to prosper from the labor and management of his descendants. Those currently managing the land, Jonathon Smucker's great, great grandsons, David and Paul Rohrer, accepted an award at the Farm Science Review that recognized the passion, care and stewardship their family has provided for that land since Smucker turned the first furrow 135 years ago.

In a tribute to the significant agricultural and community contributions the family has achieved, *Ohio's Country Journal*, the Ohio Department of Agriculture (ODA) and the Ohio

Historical Society jointly recognized the family as the overall winner in the 1996 Ohio's Outstanding Century Farm Awards Program at a ceremony held at the Review.

"This family is an excellent model of the entrepreneurship, ingenuity and strength of character needed to thrive amidst the hardships of farming for more than one hundred years," ODA Director Fred L. Dailey said. "I congratulate the Rohrer family and thank them for contributing more than 10 decades of dedication to preserving and improving this outstanding family farm."

The award was presented during Ed Johnson's live radio broadcast of his morning farm show.

"It gives me great pride for *Ohio's Country Journal* to be an active co-sponsor of these awards and to allow the opportunity for these families' wonderful histories to be told," Ed Johnson said. "At a time when the acreage of one Ohio farm is lost from production each day, their tenacity is to be commended."

The Rohrer farm was one of eight regional winners announced at this year's Ohio State Fair. Their history of dedication to land stewardship, agricultural leadership, and in preserving the historical integrity of their ancestral home made them strong candidates for the overall award. The Rohrers received a specially-designed, bronze plaque for their farm, permanently designating the Rohrer Farm as the 1996 Ohio's Outstanding Century Farm State Winner.

Families that have been actively farming the same land for more than a century are eligible to apply for recognition through Ohio's Outstanding Century Farm Awards Program. More than 400 families have applied for the award since its inception in 1993. The deadline for applications for the 1997 awards program is April 1, 1997. Once applications are received, they are automatically reconsidered for the award each year.

We've moved!

As of October 22, 1996, the Ohio Department of Agriculture downtown Columbus offices moved to Reynoldsburg. Our new address is 8995 East Main Street, Reynoldsburg, OH 43086-3399. Department telephone and fax numbers remain the same.

The Ohio Department of Agriculture Quarterly News (ISSN 10739319) is published quarterly by the Ohio Department of Agriculture, Communications Division, 8995 East Main Street, Reynoldsburg, Ohio 43068-3399. Periodicals postage paid at Columbus, Ohio. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Ohio Department of Agriculture *Quarterly News*, Communications Division, 8995 East Main Street, Reynoldsburg, Ohio 43068-3399.