

Six Century Farms Awarded

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 tor with the U.S. House Agriculture Committee. O'Conner reported on the 1990 Farm Bill, the reasoning behind its form and the probable impact to local farmers. Of the families which received the century farm awards, two can trace family ownership back to 1841.

- The 104-acre farm owned by John D. and Deborah L. Meck located in Strasburg Township was first purchased by John's great-great-great-grandfather, Jacob Barge. Barge had originally bought 110 acres for \$3,834 from Samuel Weaver.
- The Barge surname left the farm in 1889 when Reuben and Susanna (Barge) Shaubach took over. The

Shaubachs were John Meck's great-grandparents. The Meck surname came to the farm when John's grandfather, John K. Meck, married Annie Shaubach and they took over the farm in 1937.

In 1960, Parke S. Meck and M. Ethel Meck took over the farm. Their son, John Dwight Meck took over the farm in 1982.

- The Smith surname is linked directly to a 140-acre dairy farm in Drumore Township starting with the 1841 purchase of 186½ acres by Preston Smith. Preston was the great-grandfather of present owner Robert S. Smith, who with wife Muriel Smith, took over the farm in 1948 from his father Horace Smith.

The homestead farm was purchased originally from Thomas Neel for \$3,000, however, none of the original building remain. The Smith's present home, however, was built in 1850.

The four other farms began a family a heritage a little later in the 1800s.

- The Century Farm plaque for a 56-acre dairy operation in Earl Township was presented in the names of Samuel M. and Katie K. Augsburg, although the farm is now owned by their daughter and son-in-law, D. Lamar and Edith (Augsberger) Weaver.
- The Augsburg name on the farm goes back four generations to the Sept. 19, 1856, purchase by Christian Augsburg, the great-great-grandfather of Edith Weaver. Christian was born and lived in Germany prior to coming to the United States and buying 48 acres from John Hurshberger for \$137 per acre. He was 42 years old when he made the purchase.
- Meadow Spring Farm in Rapho Township is a 97-acre mixed livestock farm jointly operated by Martin and Ruth Kready and their son and daughter-in-law Gerry and Melva Kready. Currently Gerry and Melva's children make the seventh generation Kreadys to grow up on the farm that was first purchased in 1860 by the father and son team of George Kready 1st and George Kready 2nd.
- When the first Kreadys purchased the farm, it consisted of 79 acres and sold for \$72 an acre. In addition to farming, the George Kreadys also butchered as a vocation.
- The Kreadys' current home was built in 1890 and the barn was built by the first Kreadys in 1871.



John D. and Deborah L. Meck are presented with a Century Farm Award for their 104-acre farm located in Strasburg Township. It has been in the family since 1841.



Robert S. and Muriel Smith receive a Century Farm Award for their 140-acre dairy farm in Drumore Township that dates back to 1841 in their family.



Ralph and Verna Hostetter receive their Century Farm Award for their Rapho Township 76-acre farm that's been in their family since 1864.

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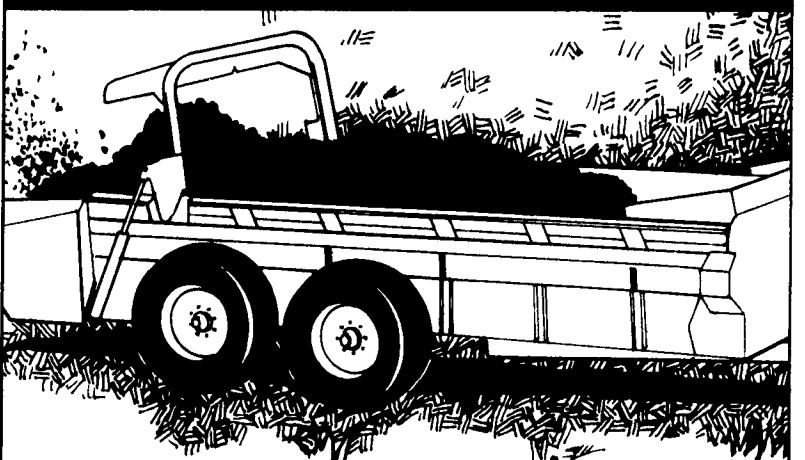


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