

Rohrer Family Find Century Farm Best Place To Celebrate Christmas

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— For Roger and Kandy Rohrer and their three children, Christmas is a time to slow down, forget about the farm work, and enjoy family and friends.

The Rohrer family believe they have the best place — a century farm surrounded by rolling acres edged with woodland — in which to take a break from a fast-paced life.

"From Memorial Day to Labor Day, we are going full-speed ahead and it really doesn't slow down until Christmas," Roger said.

The most time consuming tasks for the Rohrers is the seven acres of tobacco that they grow and Roger's job as an ag lender for Corestates Hamilton Bank. In addition, Kandy has a quilt busi-

ness. She pieces an average of two quilts a week and employs eight quilters. The quilts are marketed locally to tourists.

The century farm was purchased by Roger's great grandparents in 1893. From the beginning it was a 100-acre farm that had a public road running smack through the middle. In 1917, the farm was sold at a public auction and purchased by Roger's grandfather, who lived on it until 1945 when he purchased an adjacent farm and moved on it. The grandfather's oldest son, who is Roger's Uncle Henry, purchased the farm.

Roger grew up about one mile away on a dairy farm. Because he preferred crop farming, he often worked for his uncle, while his brother helped his dad on the dairy farm.

"I always admired this pristine

valley," said Roger, who purchased an adjacent 40 acres of land in 1979.

When his uncle decided to retire in 1989, he offered to sell the farm to Roger and his brother. At that point, the brothers decided to split the 100 acre farm since it was already divided by the road. On the 50 acres that Roger purchased was the barn and tobacco shed but not the house so a new one was built.

With the 50 acres on the century

farm and the 40 adjacent acres that Roger had previously purchased, the Rohrers' property is now 90 acres.

The Rohrers decided to apply for the Century Farm Award while their aunt and uncle were in good health and could enjoy the celebration. "My uncle lived on the property for 70 years and really deserves the recognition," he said.

Roger and Kandy were eligible for the award because in addition

to the farm needing to remain in the same family for 100 years, the award's requirements state that the applicants must live on the property and derive an agriculture income from the land.

Roger and Kandy started by raising one acre of tobacco and now have seven acres of it.

"It allowed us to finance the land," Roger said. "It has been a great mortgage lifter."

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Roger and Kandy discuss holiday plans while sipping coffee and eating Christmas cookies.



The Rohrer family, from left, Kandy, Roger, Todd, 12; Ashlee, 7; and Mark, 11.



Although the farm buildings came with the Century Farm when it was divided, the house did not. The Rohrers built this house. The tobacco field is in the background.



Even 7-year-old Ashlee cannot resist this woolly bear, her father's trophy.



This is one of the more than 100 quilts that Kandy pieced this year. After she stitches the pieces together, she has one of the seven quilters who work for her, quilt the top. Most of the quilts are sold to tourists who see Kandy's work at local consignment shop or at two nearby Bed and Breakfast Inns.