



*Century Farms – P. 2*

- There are various structures on this family farm; the farmhouse, smokehouse, granary, front shed/shop, original barn – all built in late 1800's.
  1. The granary was used to store sweet potatoes that were grown on the farm.
  2. The Barn housed a dairy herd until the late 1950s and hogs in the 70's and 80's.
  3. On the corner of the farm sits three greenhouses and a produce market that Marvin and Tin Hill began in 1996. They grow bedding and vegetable plants, herbs, and potted plants, as well as sell produce grown by local farmers. The market is run mostly by family including their daughter, Wendy.
- The Hill family resides on the back part of the farm. The farmhouse will become home to Keith Hill, the 5<sup>th</sup> generation to reside in the family farmhouse.



Left to right: *Austin Short, Deputy Secretary of Agriculture; Beverly Mears; Rodney Mears; Ed Kee, Secretary of Agriculture*

is a small herd of meat goats. .

- The Mears family has lived on these 31 acres for the past 122 years.

**Rodney G. Mears family farm, Dagsboro Hundred, Sussex County:**

- Mr. and Mrs. Rodney Mears received the Century Farm Award.
- The original 107 acre parcel was purchased in 1888 from William S. Johnson by Ananias D. Mears Great-Grandfather to the present owner, for \$15.32 per acre.
- David H. Mears, Grandfather to the present owner obtained the farm in 1927, and then James Brooks Mears, Sr., father to the present owner received the farm in 1979.
- In 2009 James B. Mears and his brother Rodney Mears received the family farm in joint ownership.
- In November 2009 the family farm was formally split between the two brothers. Now, Rodney Mears owns 31 acres of the Mears family farm.
- The Rodney Mears, 31 acre, family farm over the years has produced corn, soybeans, hay, and vegetables. Cattle, hogs, goats, horses, chickens were also raised on the farm. The farm now produces soybeans, corn, barley or wheat. Currently there



Left to right: *The Hon. David Wilson (sitting); the Hon. Joe Booth (sitting); Lois Mears; James Mears; Ed Kee, Secretary of Agriculture*

**James B. Mears, Jr. family farm, Dagsboro Hundred, Sussex County:**

- Mr. and Mrs. James Mears received the Century Farm Award.
- The original 107 acre parcel was purchased in 1888 from William S. Johnson by Ananias D. Mears Great-Grandfather to the present owner, for \$15.32 per acre.
- David H. Mears, Grandfather to the present owner obtained the farm in 1927, and then James Brooks Mears, Sr., father to the present owner received the farm in 1979.
- In 2009 James B. Mears and his brother Rodney Mears received the family farm in joint ownership.
- In November 2009 the family farm was formally split between the two brothers. Now James Mears, Jr. owns 17.95 acres of the Mears family farm.
- The James Mears, Jr. family farm over the years has produced corn, soybeans, hay, some vegetables. Cattle, hogs, goats, horses, chickens were also raised on the farm. The farm now produces soybeans, corn, barley or wheat.
- The Mears family has lived on these 17.95 acres for the past 122 years.

**-More-**



Left to right: **Front row:** Charles Smith, III; Charles Smith, Jr., Thomas Smith;  
**Back Row:** Matthew Smith; Ed Kee, Secretary of Agriculture

**T. S. Smith family farm, Nanticoke Hundred, Sussex County:**

- Mr. Charles Walton Smith, Jr., Mr. Thomas Sterling Smith, Mr. Charles Walton Smith, III and Mr. Matthew Wingate Smith received the Century Farm Award and the Historic Structures Award.
- Thomas Sterling Smith, Grandfather and Great-Grandfather to the present owners purchased 46 acres of the farm from Fred B. Willey in June of 1907 for \$5,000.00. He then purchased 120 acres of the farm in 1910 from Oscar L Layton for \$32.72 per acre.
- In 1922 ownership passed to Charles Walton Smith, Sr., and to Robert Dawson Smith, Sr.
- In 1965 the ownership passed to Charles Walton Smith, Jr. and to Robert Dawson Smith, Jr.
- Thomas Sterling Smith, Charles Walton Smith, III and Matthew Wingate Smith now each own a 1/3<sup>rd</sup> share of the family farm.
- There are four historic structures on the farm:
  1. The Granary build around 1900, the tractor shed build in the 1930's
  2. The big tractor shed build in the 1970's
  3. The farm shop built in the 1950's.

4. The family farm house, built in 1850.

- At the present time this 103-year old family farm produces apples, peaches, asparagus, nectarines, strawberries, cucumbers, tomatoes, soybeans, sweet corn, field corn, lima beans, pumpkins, cantaloupes, and water melons.
- Chickens were also raised on the farm.

Following the award presentations, the Hon. Joe Booth, the Hon. Ruth Briggs-King, the Hon. William “Bobby” Outten, the Hon. Robert Venables, the Hon. Robert “Bob” Walls, and the Hon. David Wilson, read tributes to the families from the House of Representatives and the Senate:

In closing remarks, Ed Kee, Delaware Secretary of Agriculture, thanked everyone who made today a success and, said, “What a privilege and pleasure to hold this job and work with the Century Farm Program. I am committed to continuing our work to keep Delaware agriculture profitable so these more than 100 year farms can become 200 year farms in these dedicated families. Farm families like the ones here today are the backbone of Delaware agriculture.”

Pictures of family groups are attached. Please scroll down.

**-MORE-**

# Century Farms Family Groups

## Hill Family



**Left to right:**  
Keith Hill; Marvin Hill; Tina Hill; Wendy Hill

## Rodney Mears Family



**Left to right:**  
Beverly Mears, Rodney Mears, Lance Mears,  
Lane Mears (Baby), Kristen Mears, Tyler  
Mears

Brooks Mears (Holding Sign)

## James Mears Family



Lois Mears, James Mears  
Brooks Mears (Holding Sign)

## Smith Family



**Front row:** Dana Borrelli holding infant Danika Borelli (kneeling); Derrick Borrelli; Erryn Smith; Matison Smith;  
**Second row standing:** Leslie Hayes holding Addison Hayes; Bob Hayes holding Delaney Borrelli; Susan Hayes;  
Charles Walton Smith, III; Matthew Smith; Charles Walton Smith, Jr. (holding sign); Gloria Smith Reagan; Tom Smith;  
Bonnie Smith; Jim Reagan;  
**Back row:** Danny Smith; Sherri Smith; Zach Hayes;

Higher resolution copies of the embedded pictures and electronic copies of pictures of family groups available:  
[anne.fitzgerald@state.de.us](mailto:anne.fitzgerald@state.de.us) .

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