

Written Profile

Farm: Cullenook Farm

Location: Morganfield, Kentucky (Union County)

Date of Origination: 1790

Industry Sector(s): Produce, Row Crops, Livestock



"We as farmers wish to be good stewards to what we are given, good friends and neighbors to the whole world," shares Drennan Cowan who represents the eighth generation of his family to farm the land in Union County, Kentucky. Inseparable from the story of American History itself, the tale of the Cowan farming family paints a brilliant picture of **Agriculture's Lasting Heritage**.

In the late 1700's, Jeremiah Cowan made the journey with his family from Ireland to the South Carolina. They later moved to Tennessee and finally settled on land he obtained between Boxville and Weaver City, Kentucky, in an area now called Cullen. Jeremiah Cowan and his wife Elizabeth Hayes began a modest farm and had several children. Drennan Cowan is a descendent of Jeremiah and Elizabeth's son James.

James Cowan, a lover of the land and preacher of the gospel, founded the Pride Baptist Church in 1848 and continued the family farming tradition. David Cowan, son to James and wife Catherine, inherited a portion of the family farm. Their son Arnold Wayne Cowan is responsible for the present day location of the Cullenook Farm. Just before the 1900's, Arnold married Nannie Mae Carrier and her family farm joined a parcel Arnold owned. Arnold was known for his teams of horses and mules, as he acquired up to thirteen teams in his hey-day! As machinery became more advanced, Arnold passed his love of tractors on to his sons. Three of his sons (Arnold Jr., Pete and Clements) became successful with the Caterpillar Tractor Co. In fact, Clements Cowan brought one of the first Caterpillars to the Cullen area!

Arnold's oldest surviving son, James Cowan, planted more of the family roots in Cullen. In 1921 he bought what is now the "home place". He acquired additional land that once was his mothers, and began improving roads around the neighborhood. He and his wife Nell took jobs outside the farm, but "they never abandoned farming In off times they managed the family farm - a few small crops, hogs and cattle," explains Drennan.

Jim and Nell's son, Bobbie, took over the land after Jim and Nell's passing. Bob took pride in restoring the old barns and cleaning up the farm. Later, their son Michael and his wife Carole Marie Clements purchased the house on the farm's corner, which currently serves as their home and the farm's headquarters. Mike and Carole diversified the operation. They brought specialty crops to the farm, and built "Cullenook Greenhouse". Carole loved growing flowers, and later this love of specialty crops led to the addition of produce. The Cowan Tractor Shop was also a welcome addition to Cullenook Farm.



Cullenook Greenhouse

Today, Cullenook Farm is owned and managed by Drennan Cowan. Cullenook Farm grows vegetables using the latest techniques. To provide a safe and inexpensive venue for children, Agritourism was added. "In the fall the old hills come alive with the laughter of children and adults alike as they peruse the pumpkin patch looking for that perfect pumpkin," writes Drennan. A corn maze, hayride and other attractions have also been added. And you can get your produce fresh from Cullenook Farm, as they founded the county's first Community Supported Agriculture Program.

As Farm Bureau members, the Cowans know the importance of sharing their message. "Farm Bureau has been a constant supporter and voice of agriculture; a valuable asset to rural America," explains Drennan. In the same respect, farmers and ranchers like the Cowans are the true asset to rural America. "A good farmer would be certain to conserve and preserve his acreage," concludes Drennan. "We would like all to know that we truly care for the land, environment and all of those who share in our harvest."

Cullenook Farm has made a true investment in our Nation's history. We extend our congratulations and appreciation to the Cowan family for their contribution to **Agriculture's Lasting Heritage**.