

## Written Profile



**Farm:** Scott Farms

**Location:** Westmoreland, KS

**Date of Origination:** 1870

**Industry Sector(s):** Grazing, Hay

"My great-grandfather built our farm into a successful business that was continued for four generations. Every time he had a nickel he bought land and expanded," says Marian Bradley. Scott Farms is now in its fourth generation of ownership and, although smaller than its original 1,400 acres, continues to be a source of pride for the family. The family members' amazing resilience and dedication to preserving the farmland of their ancestors is a welcome contribution to **Agriculture's Lasting Heritage**.

Bradley's great-grandfather, Adam Scott, emigrated from Scotland in the late 1800s. Not of noble birth, the original Scott could not own land in his native country. Once in Kansas, he set about acquiring land and livestock, mainly sheep. At the height of productivity, the farm was home to hundreds of sheep (each flock with its own shepherds), 44 horses, some cattle and chickens. Bradley's great-grandfather had 12 children and divided the land up for them when they married, allowing each to start their own operations. Today, the farm is 350 acres that Bradley rents to a cattle farmer for grazing and alfalfa. Although she no longer farms herself, Bradley says keeping the farm in the family was very important to her. "The Oregon Trail goes through this farm, that's how my great-grandfather first saw it," remembers Bradley. "I love looking out the windows of the house he built and seeing the land I grew up on."



The original Scott home, completed in 1889, where Bradley and her husband live today.

Scott Farms has undergone numerous changes in the past 140 years, most of which can be seen in the downsizing and change in industry sectors. With changes in the price of sheep and wool, aging of each generation and children discovering new career paths, it hasn't always been easy to keep the farm operating smoothly. Today however, the farm is a model of historic preservation and a commitment to conservation. As Bradley eloquently puts it, "Farming is a noble career that must be sustained."

During its long history, the farm successfully weathered the transition from horses to tractors, introducing conservation techniques such as terraces and dams along the way.

"There is pride in the ownership of a farm that has been in one family for several generations," shares Bradley. "It comes to mean so much more than just land value." The importance of keeping family farms alive and prosperous is seen clearly in the example set by Scott Farms. Their contribution to **Agriculture's Lasting Heritage** and commitment to conservation of their land is greatly appreciated.