

Written Profile

Farm: Smith Family Farm
Location: Monroeville, Ohio
Date of Origination: 1830
Industry Sector(s): Grain



"We believe that you should leave the land better than you found it," shares Howard and Sharon Smith. This mind-set has enabled the family to maintain a sustainable farming operation since the early 1800's, and we are excited to share their story of **Agriculture's Lasting Heritage**.

Like many of their day, the Smiths established their roots on American soil as European immigrants. Traveling from their homeland of Germany in 1830, the founding Smiths began building the family farm in Huron County, Ohio. They had been farmers in Germany, and carried with them their experience and tradition of providing for their family by working the land.

Over the years there were several difficult periods. The Great Depression was notably the most difficult. Economic challenges remained a constant pressure, and Howard's father Clemens was forced to get a job in town to supplement his farming income. Contrasting these challenges, changing times brought changing technology. Improvements in machinery and technology have positively impacted the production operation.



Howard and Sharon Smith

Today the family farms grain on the same land that their German ancestors settled nearly 200 years ago. They recently put the farm into the Western Reserve Land Conservancy, which allows the family to own the property with the understanding that the land will only be used for agriculture. "We think this is a great way to preserve agriculture in the future," shares Howard and Sharon Smith.

"Farmers usually have a real love for the land and farming. They want it to keep on producing the grain and crops," the Smiths

explain. Their love for the land is evident in the sacrifices they have made to keep their land in production agriculture, and in the family. We are proud to share their story as we recognize their contribution to **Agriculture's Lasting Heritage**.