

## Written Profile

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**Farm:** Woolen Mill Farm  
**Location:** York County, Pennsylvania  
**Date of Origination:** 1850  
**Industry Sector(s):** Grain



Jay McGinnis of Woolen Mill Farms shares that he has always been taught to conserve the land through erosion control, "because the land is more important than a quick buck." Passionate respect for the land is a common thread among Century Farmers. This innate sense of responsibility is what drives farmers to continually cultivate **Agriculture's Lasting Heritage**.

Woolen Mill Farm was started in 1850 when Jay McGinnis' ancestors, Quakers, bought a tract of land. They were able to pay it off in two years by growing buckwheat. When the next generation came along they decided to start raising cattle. Eventually Jay's grandfather began growing potatoes and was actually one of the first to raise potatoes for local chip factories.

Today Jay raises grain and is presently self-sufficient with solar, wind, and geothermal energy. He has restored a number of rare wind turbines that grind grain, and he has invested in modern technology that generates energy from sustainable sources. But the learning does not stop here. Jay takes his responsibility of stewarding the land seriously and has held open houses to share information.

This spirit of forward-thinking and dedication to the land has enabled the family to persevere even when times were difficult on the land. From depressions to drought, hard work has won out for the Woolen Mill Farm.

"(This farm has been) very grounding; giving me a foundation that has built confidence as well as individualism," Jay McGinnis reflects. Through his experiences and the memories that are still kept alive through the land, he recognizes the importance of **Agriculture's Lasting Heritage**.