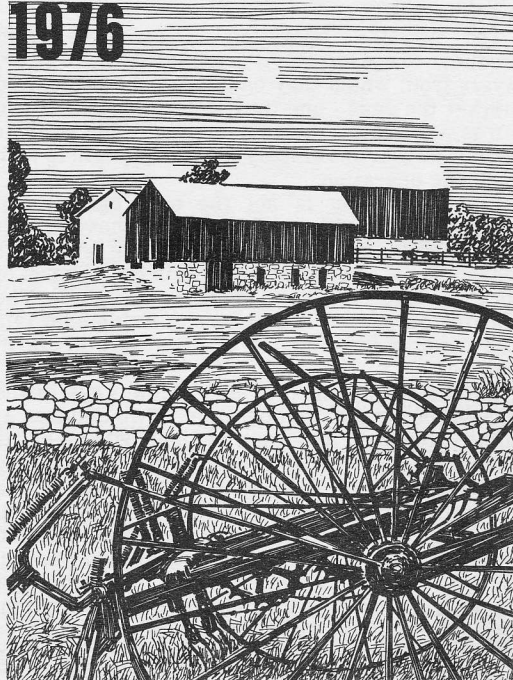


**WEST VIRGINIA'S
Outstanding
Farm
Families**

1976



Sponsored by:

**WEST VIRGINIA
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Gus R. Douglass
Agriculture Commissioner**

and

**WEST VIRGINIA
FARM AND HOME
ELECTRIC ENERGY COUNCIL**

the Oak Grove Presbyterian Church; member of the Pocahontas County Democratic Women's Club; and member of the Tuberculosis Association. She and Dick are the parents of two other children, both married - Martha of Muncie, Indiana, and Nora of Hillsboro; and participated as members of the People-to-People Goodwill Travel Delegation that visited Europe and Russia in 1972.

The McNeel operation was incorporated as Sinking Springs Farms in 1975. The land has been in the McNeel family since 1765 when John McNeel came from Maryland and settled there. He was the first white man to settle in western Pocahontas County.

The Thomas Savage Family CONSERVATION FARMER

Mr. and Mrs. Tom Savage have a 140-acre, diversified livestock operation in Ohio County. They produce 40 acres of hay, 17 acres of corn for grain, 8 acres of oats, and 5 acres of corn for silage. The remaining 70 acres is improved pasture. Presently they milk 18 registered Holstein cows, and maintain 21 Hereford beef cows and 25 head of purebred Polled Dorset sheep. Mr. and Mrs. Savage were named the Conservation Farmer for 1976 at the annual convention of the West Virginia Soil Conservation Supervisors Association in November of 1976.

Mr. Savage credits a great deal of the success in their farming operation to the wise and continued use of recommended soil and water conservation practices. All 70 acres of their cropland are arranged in contour strips and they have built a pond and developed three springs to reduce soil erosion, provide a habitat for fish and wildlife, and provide plenty of clean, fresh water for their livestock. All 70 acres of their pasture has been improved by the application of recommended amounts of lime and fertilizer and are managed to maintain their productivity and vigor.

The Savage family is extremely active in the rural life of their community, are members of the Dairy Herd Improvement Association, and has actively supported and held various offices, including president, in the Continental Polled Dorset Association. Creating and supporting opportunities of youth is a primary interest of the Savage family. They have strongly supported the Ohio County 4-H Dairy Genetics Project by supplying good quality dairy heifers to the program and have been hosts for land judging contests, field trips, and "day on the farm" educational ventures.

Mr. Savage is a member of the Ohio County ASCS and FHA Committees, Director and Vice-President of the Northern Panhandle District Holstein Club, Board Chairman of Southern States Co-Op at Triadelphia, Director of Ohio County Farm Bureau, a Milk, Inc., delegate, and member of the W.Va. and National Holstein Associations.

Mrs. Savage (Louise) has been a member of the Liberty Extension Homemakers Club for 26 years

and has served several times on the FHA Farm-Home Advisory Committee. She still finds time to help with the farm work and perform several hobbies, one of which is freezing and canning vegetables from the garden.

The Savages attend St. Marks Lutheran Church in Elm Grove and are the parents of two children, Thomas and Linda, both graduates of WVU - Thomas is in agriculture and Linda in home economics.

The Clarence Keener Family FHA FARM FAMILY

Mr. and Mrs. Keener with their children, John, 21; Pat, 19; Pam, 18; Randy, 16; Robin, 14; and Tina, 4, operate a dairy farm of 505 acres on the Kingwood Pike just a few miles from Reedsville. They were selected as the Farm Family of the Year for 1976 by the Farmers Home Administration. John, his wife Virginia, and their young son John David have their own home adjacent to the farmstead and work full-time on the farm.

The Keeners purchased this farm in 1972. At that time they had a dairy herd of 31 cows with an average milk production of 10,000 pounds per cow. Their corn silage had produced 10 tons per acre and hay 2 tons per acre.

The Keener farm of 505 acres consists of 250 acres in pasture, 180 acres in cropland, and 75 acres of woodland. Mr. Keener believes in soil development and has put his belief into effect. He limed and fertilized all meadow and pasture. He reseeded 55 acres of meadow. He cleared 10 acres and established pasture on it. He also installed 2,000 feet of drainage tile.

Soil development and improved practices have been repaid by increased production. His hay yield is now 3 tons per acre and corn silage 20 tons per acre.

Mr. Keener has given the same careful attention to improving his dairy operation as he has his land. He has installed two new silos and an efficient feeding system. He has increased his herd to 84 Holstein cows with an annual milk production exceeding 13,000 pounds per cow. He makes full use of his DHIA records.

During the past four years Mr. Keener has increased his income by 300 percent and his net worth by more than 300 percent. He considers his dairy operation a business and keeps complete records on production, income, and costs. Each year he analyzes his records to determine what increases have been accomplished and what changes need to be made. He anticipates a continuous increase in production and income.

The Keeners are active in church and civic affairs. Randy was President of the Masontown Chapter of Future Farmers of America and has won a trophy for livestock exhibited at the Preston County Buckwheat Festival. All of the children are active in the dairy operation.

provement, harvested 300 cords of pulp wood, and 35,000 board feet of timber, constructed 17,500 feet of firebreak and access trails, and established numerous wildlife food plots and sanctuaries. They also have a planting of Christmas trees that are harvested annually on a pick-your-own basis.

Mr. and Mrs. Sziarto credit their life-long partnership and assistance from Federal and State government officials for their outstanding success. According to Mr. and Mrs. Sziarto their efforts have resulted in an exciting, creative, worthwhile, and interesting "retirement."

COOPERATING AGENCIES & ORGANIZATIONS

W.Va. Cattlemen's Association
W.Va. Soil Conservation Committee - District Supervisors Association
USDA Farmers Home Administration - W.Va.
W.Va. Tree Farm Committee - W.Va. Forests, Inc.
W.Va. Poultry Association
Dairy Herd Improvement Association of W.Va.
W.Va. Strawberry Festival
W.Va. FFA Association
W.Va. Sheep Industry Development Association
W.Va. Horticultural Society
WVU Cooperative Extension Service
WVU College of Agriculture & Forestry
USDA Soil Conservation Service - W.Va.
USDA Agriculture Stabilization & Conservation Service - W.Va.

FARM LOCATIONS

