

CENTENNIAL FARMS SPOTLIGHTS

FREDERICK DIEMER FARM

MCBAIN • ESTABLISHED OCTOBER 13, 1904

On October 13, 1904, the Frederick Diemer Farm was founded in McBain, Michigan. Frederick “Fred” Diemer immigrated to the United States from the Netherlands in 1893 at the age of 19. He spent his first winter in a lumber camp in Vogel Center, Michigan. It is believed that Fred purchased the original 20-acre farm by a land contract around that time, though the deed was not recorded until 1904. He paid \$200 for the property.

Fred and his wife, Dena, were married in 1895. The couple had 11 children, which led to the expansion of the farm. After Fred was killed in a construction accident in 1928, Dena and her

young children continued to operate the farm during the Great Depression. Eventually, only Alfred, the youngest son, remained on the farm. He received the land following Dena’s death in 1945 and used it to grow feed for his dairy herd.

Alfred married Dorothy Bratt in 1947, and they had nine children. Though the couple’s primary occupation was farming, Alfred served as a county commissioner and Dorothy worked as a registered nurse for many years. Under their ownership, the farm expanded to 277 acres. When Alfred passed away in 1996, the land was divided between four of his children. Mark, the youngest son, currently owns the majority of the land and works full-time managing the dairy herd. Siblings Elaine, Freda, and Alan also own parcels on which they farm part-time. Several fourth-generation Diemers work on the farm, too, helping to carry on the family’s long agricultural traditions. ☒



*Left: A calf barn built in 1895 and a cement silo built in 1971.
Right: The original farmhouse, built in 1894.*

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STEPHEN PINCIK FARM

OWOSSO • ESTABLISHED DECEMBER 14, 1910

The Stephen Pincik Farm was established on December 14, 1910, when Stephen Pincik entered into a contract to purchase 80 acres of land in Caledonia Township. An emigrant from Czechoslovakia, Stephen had initially settled in Cleveland, Ohio, in 1895 with his brother, Charles. He returned to Czechoslovakia in 1904 to marry Leopoldina Susan Barnik. The couple had five children: Mary, Pauline, Mildred, George, and Antonia.

In 1935, 25 years after settling in Caledonia Township, Stephen purchased 40 acres located down the road from his original farm. That land, including a house and barn, eventually became the home of Stephen’s son George; George’s wife, Elizabeth; and their four children. When 140 acres between the original farm and the new property became available for purchase in 1957, George and Elizabeth acquired the land, connecting the separate plots and more than doubling the Pincik family’s holdings. Stephen passed away in 1971, leaving his land to George. Following George’s death in 1983, his sons Ed and George Jr. worked on the family farm.

Ed and Linda Pincik, the current owners of this Centennial Farm, were married in 1976. Their children and grandchildren, the family’s fourth and fifth generations, currently live and work on the land. With the farm now encompassing 1,650 acres, they grow corn, soybeans, wheat, and sugar beets. Over the years, farming operations have shifted away from the original 80 acres, and new buildings have been constructed elsewhere on the Pinciks’ property. Nevertheless, the farmland endures as an outstanding example of family farming in Michigan. ☒



Top: An aerial view of the Stephen Pincik Farm, c. 2015. Bottom: Ed, George Sr., Stephen, and Mary Pincik in 1958.