

Fisher Farm named one of three in county recognized by TFLH

Editor's note – The Fisher Farm is one of three Cooke County farms recognized Nov. 3 by the Texas Family Land Heritage (FLH) program for continuous agriculture production for 100 years or longer. The Corcoran Place and the Howell Ranch also were recognized and will be featured in future issues of The Weekly News.

By Kit Chase
Senior Staff Writer
The Weekly News

MUENSTER – In celebration of agriculture and family heritage, John and

Louise Fisher were recognized as a Texas family who kept their farm in continuous agriculture production for 100 years or longer.

The 36th Family Land Heritage (FLH) ceremony was held at the Texas State Capitol House Chamber Nov. 3.

The original farm was 303 acres founded in 1906 by Joseph and Emma Pulte Fisher located at 2405 CR 302.

Joseph Fisher farmed the land for 63 years raising crops and livestock and 11 children, John, Joe, Charlie, Roy Pat, Bertha, Ida,

Paul, Harry, Lillian, Earl and Lorena. Lorena Fisher Taylor celebrated her 90th birthday this month.

Joseph Fisher died in 1967 and his grandson John Fisher bought the farm in 1971 and farms today. John Fisher sold six acres with the farm house to his cousin Theresa Fisher Walterscheid and her husband James. Today John Fisher grows small grains and hay and raises cattle and feeds cattle for Fischer's Meat Market.

Joseph Fischer was born in Cassville, Wis., to Adam and Margaret Schieffer Fischer who were immigrants from Cologne, Germany. Adam and Margaret were in Chicago during the great fire of 1871. Adam Fischer eventually moved to Iowa and heard the news about colonizing the town of Muenster located on the Katy Railroad line. They packed up their possessions and moved to a new state with new opportunities. Joseph Fisher was 14 years old and when his father ar-

rived in Muenster. Adam soon died and Joseph became the sole provider for his mother and sister, Abbie.

During World War I the Fisher name was changed from Fischer, because of attitudes toward German-Americans. "That's when the 'c' came out of Fisher," Theresa Walterscheid said.

Joseph Fisher was 29 years old when he bought the farm and had four children at the time. His children helped with farm chores when they were old enough. An early photograph of Joseph and Emma Fisher on their wedding day shows a handsome couple. Joseph wore a large moustache. "He was such a ham whenever a camera came out," John Fisher said.

The first farm house was a log cabin and Theresa recalled a story, "The first house they built was back toward the creek and grandpa said that when he came home after dark he could see the lantern light through the cracks. One time it snowed and it was a time when John slept at the foot of their bed and they had the baby in between them. They woke up and there was snow all over the bed and John said 'there's rain on the baby, there's rain on the baby.' He had never seen snow before."

A second brick house was built in 1928 that stands today.

"We never met our grandmother," John Fisher said. "She lived in this house before she died, but not too long. She was 30, I think. Johnny Schmitz' dad was a carpenter and his name is in the attic. He built the house."

Joseph Fisher raised sheep and sent them to market in Kansas City. "My granddad and dad would buy sheep from the farmers and load them out here and send them to market in the spring of the year," John Fisher said. "When daddy shipped those sheep to Kansas and ol' B. Felker would ship cattle up there at the same time, so sometimes they would ride together. A lady saw my dad in his Western hat and said, 'Oh, I see you're in the cattle business.' Daddy said, 'No I'm in sheep business.' Next to him was Felker and daddy said, 'He's in the cattle business.' The lady said, 'I thought they was always fighting each other.' Daddy said, 'well they really are, but in the war there's not enough seats on this train.' That story was put in the Chicago paper at the time."

"They traded with Kansas City and sent sheep and cattle up there," John

Fisher said. "You made it easier if you didn't have a German-sounding name." That is when the family changed the name from Fischer to Fisher.

During the Great Depression, food was readily available on the farm. "Daddy said that on the farm we didn't notice that too much," Theresa Walterscheid said. "Daddy said that we always had enough food."

Joseph Fisher and his brother John Fisher were owners and partners of Fischer's Meat Market for almost 50 years. They started the store in 1927. John Fisher and his brother Butch Fisher bought the market in 1975 and operated it until 2005. Steve Fisher, the son of Butch Fisher currently owns and operates the market.

During the Family Land Heritage (FLH) ceremony Commissioner Todd Staples said, "The families we honor today continue their ancestors' legacies of nurturing and caring for the land. They truly represent the dreams of the pioneers who entered the Texas frontier and built the family farms and ranches that endure to this day. I congratulate these families for making Texas a leader in agriculture."



Call me today for a complimentary financial and insurance review.
(940) 665 3121

Wright & Wright Insurance
317 N. Grand • Gainesville
940-665-3121




Subject to availability and qualifications. Allstate Life Insurance Company, Northbrook, Illinois © 2007 Allstate Insurance Company.

A + Advantage

Investment Management + Trust

We're not just a bank. We're your advantage when it comes to investments, banking and life. Call us for the best grade possible and find out what a plus advantage can do for you.

- + Investment Management
- + IRA Rollovers
- + Charitable Trusts, Foundations and Endowments
- + Employee Retirement Plans
- + Trust Administration
- + Estate Planning and Settlement



Landmark Bank

LandmarkBank.com (800) 618-5503

Investment products and services are not FDIC insured, not insured by any federal government agency, not a deposit or bank obligation, not financial institution guaranteed, subject to investment risk, including potential principal loss.



Longtime family farm – John Fisher, right and his cousin Theresa Fisher Walterscheid are pictured in front of the original Fisher farm house on CR 302 south of Muenster. The Texas Department of Agriculture recognized the John Fisher farm and family who kept their farm in continuous agriculture production for 100 years or longer. (Staff Photo)

- Eye Exams
- Contact Lens
- Fashion Frames

Full Surface Lab
1-2 Hour Service
Plastic Lens Only

Dr. John Webb, O.D.



TSO

940-668-7500

940-668-7254 • 888-237-0756

311 E. California St. / Gainesville, TX

Most Medical & Vision Plans Accepted

Hours:

Monday - Friday
9am - 12pm/1pm - 5pm
Saturday 9am - 1pm