

Bill '50 & Joyce (Cromwell) '53 Fulton

If you're a strawberry, corn, tomato, or melon lover (and who isn't), you most assuredly have heard of, visited, or more importantly relished these and other products of Fulton Farms, located on State Route 202 east of Tipp City.

Bill Fulton, who is President and General Manager of Fulton Farms, was born in 1932 and graduated from Northridge High School in 1950. Joyce (Cromwell) Fulton, who is Market Manager at Fulton Farms, was born in 1935 and graduated from NHS in 1953. In case you haven't figured it out, they are husband and wife.

Bill received a B.S. in Agriculture from Ohio State University in 1954. He and Joyce married and started farming 40 acres near Casstown. They moved to their present farm in 1958 with 60 acres and by 1977 expanded it to over 2000 acres. While they were expanding their farm, they were also expanding their family. Over a 17 year period they had five children—two girls and three boys. They have 20 grandchildren. His brother Tom and a son Jim help manage the farm. The older grandchildren of the 12 living on the farm help at the farm and the market.

Over the years Bill and Joyce have contributed much to the farming industry and to the community. Bill was a pioneer in the use of plastic mulch, row covers, center-pivot irrigation, and trickle irrigation. He was one of the founders of the North American Strawberry Growers Association and was its first president. He is the only farmer in the past 50 years to serve as president of two statewide horticultural associations: the Ohio Vegetable and Potato Growers Association, and the Ohio Fruit Growers Society. In 1996 he received the Distinguished Service Award from the Ohio Farm Bureau. He has served on numerous other agricultural and horticultural committees in various capacities. He and Joyce have traveled to many countries to study and/or advise agricultural production and techniques. Bill was also a member of the Miami East Board of Education for 12 years. Joyce received the Gene Cravens Marketing Award in 1999 from the Direct Agricultural Marketing Association of Ohio.

The annual Troy Strawberry Festival gets its berries from Fulton Farms.

In 1983 Bill received the Support Appreciation Award from the sponsors.
In 1991 the Fulton family served as honorary chairpersons of the festival.

Now, if we only had some samples to try.