Farm Science Review Honors
Hall of Fame Recipients

They remember the mud. They remember the hard work. But most of all, they remember the cooperation and fun.

This year’s crop of Farm Science Review Hall of Fame honorees hail back to the earlier days of the event. Many of their contributions continue to impact how the Review is operated today.

Kathleen Smith, Bill Gill, and Bill Schnug, all of Columbus, will be inducted into the Hall of Fame on the opening day of the Farm Science Review. The Ohio State University event runs Sept. 19-21 at the Molly Caren Agricultural Center near London, Ohio.

Craig Fendrick, manager of the Review, credits Kathleen Smith with helping smooth the transition from the former location of the Review — near Don Scott airport in Columbus — to its current site near London, Ohio. “I had to talk her into delaying her retirement for a year. We needed her help in getting us through the relocation.”

“I thought when I retired it was a good place to leave off because it couldn’t get any better than the Review,” said Smith, who served as secretary for the Review from 1973 to 1984. “It was a lot of hard work — most people don’t realize how much work it is — but it was also a lot of fun.”

Visitors who come year after year to check out the machinery harvesting and tillage demonstrations can tip their hats to Bill Gill. Gill established field demonstration plots for the original review, and a similar set-up is still followed today.

Bill Gill

Gill credits farm machinery companies with the idea. In a typical machinery demonstration in the early 1960s, corn pickers would follow each other. Delays quickly occurred if a machine broke down in the field. By giving each machinery company its own plot, delays were kept to a minimum. “Farmers liked it much better. They could watch one, and then the other, and some had preferences and would just want to see one line,” Gill said.

From the machinery demonstration area, corn and soybeans are brought to the Review’s grain handling area. Bill Schnug had to figure out how to handle a large amount of grain harvested in a very short time by all of the large combines demonstrating at the Review — something most farmers don’t have to deal with. Schnug remembers the mud in 1963, the first year of the Review, and all of the help he had getting the grain dryer in place.

He also remembers the year corn was brought in at 35 percent moisture, and the struggles in trying to get it to flow out of the gravity bin.

“Three individuals have had significant and lasting impact on the Review. The Hall of Fame honor gives us a public way to say a big thank you,” Fendrick said.

Schnug, Gill and Smith and past recipients are honored on two plaques. One hangs in the Agricultural Administration Building on the Ohio State University campus. The other is displayed in the George Building at the Molly Caren Agricultural Center.