

Oregon Agricultural Education Foundation
NEWS RELEASE

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2009 Century Farm & Ranch Award Applications Now Available

(Salem, Or) – Applications are now being accepted for the 2009 award year of the Century Farm & Ranch Program, a statewide recognition program honoring farmers and ranchers who have worked the same land for at least 100 years. The program, celebrating its 51st year, is administered through the Oregon Agricultural Education Foundation (OAEF) in Salem and is partially funded by the Oregon Farm Bureau, the Oregon Historical Society, State Historic Preservation Office (Department of Parks & Recreation), the Oregon Department of Agriculture, various county farm bureaus, agriculture-based organizations, and individuals.

Family farmers and ranchers throughout Oregon are encouraged to apply by the **June 1, 2009** deadline. Successful applicants receive a personalized certificate, with acknowledgment by the Governor and the Director of the Oregon Department of Agriculture. A durable metal road sign to identify the family's farm or ranch as having historic Century status is also available. Each family will be honored during a special ceremony and reception at the Oregon State Fair in September.

Since the start of the program in 1958, 1082 farms and ranches across the State have been registered. Oregon has one of the oldest agricultural heritage programs of this type in the entire nation. In 2008, the Program introduced a Sesquicentennial Award, which was given to 14 families in its inaugural year and to another 5 families in 2009. The 2009 Sesquicentennial Award ceremony was held on February 14 at the State Capitol building as part of a day-long celebration of the state's 150th birthday.

A formal application process is required to be considered for the formal century status. To qualify as a Century Farm or Century Ranch, the family must meet a total of nine criteria, including the following:

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- The farm or ranch must have been operated continuously in the same family for 100 years or more. If the farm or ranch has ever been rented or leased, it may not qualify. Documentation is required.
- The farm or ranch must have a gross income from farming or ranching activities of not less than \$1,000 per year for three out of five years immediately preceding application.
- Family members must live on the property or actively manage and direct the farming or ranching operations.

Application materials are preserved in the manuscript collections of the Oregon Historical Society library and provide useful information for research on the history of agriculture and farm families in Oregon.

To receive the application guidelines and the official form, please contact Glenn Mason, Oregon Century Farm & Ranch Program Coordinator at (503) 297-5892 or orcentury@juno.com or you may download the application guidelines from the Department of Agriculture website at:

<http://oregon.gov/ODA/cfr.shtml>.



The Oregon Century Farm & Ranch Program is a program within the Oregon Agricultural Education Foundation. OAEF is a 501 (c) 3 Oregon non-profit organization and is included in the Oregon Cultural Trust's list of organizations eligible for the Cultural Trust matching gift program. For more information about the Oregon Agricultural Education Foundation, please call (503) 399-1701 or send inquiries by mail to: Janice Reed, OAEF, 3415 Commercial Street S.E., Salem, OR 97302.

