



Oregon Century Farm & Ranch Program

A program of the Oregon Farm Bureau Foundation for Education

NEWS RELEASE

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Oregon Century Farm & Ranch Program

Awards Century Status to 9 Farms & Ranches in 2022 & holds ceremony at Oregon State Fair (Salem, OR) –

Five farms and ranches will be honored this year as Century Farms or Ranches and Four will be awarded the Sesquicentennial (150 year award) they are from eight different Oregon Counties, including Deschutes county that now has its first recognized Century Farm. This brings the total number of Oregon Century Farms and Ranches to 1,252 & Sesquicentennial to 51. The 2022 families will also be honored at this year's awards ceremony at the Oregon State Fair on **Saturday August 27, 2022.**

2022 Century Farm Families being honored are:

Burley Farm: Founded in Clackamas County in 1922 by Cyrus & Mabel Burley. Applicants are Dennis & Sandy Burley.

In 1922, Cyrus and wife Mabel purchased 60 acres just half mile south of Eby School on Cramer Road in Molalla Oregon. The couple was not new to farming though, since their marriage in 1901 in Norden Nebraska they had bought and sold multiple farms before deciding to come to Molalla. Their son Lee joined the farm in 1927 by purchasing 20 of the 60 acres on the Northside of the farm. In the 1930's Charles, the youngest son bought 15 acres as well, built a house and barn and farmed the property. In the 1940's Cecil, the youngest son, bought the remaining 25 acres from his parents and granted them right to stay on the property until their deaths. While Cecil served in World War II he arranged for brother Lee to farm his portion of the property. During these years the goal of farm was to raise crops and livestock and provide food for family table. The first crops on the farm were sorghum, flax, hay, cereal grains, bees, horses, dairy cattle, beef cattle, pigs, chickens and a large garden and orchard for home uses. Cecil added lean to's on North and east sides for livestock, built a commercial poultry barn and machinery shed as well. He married Elsie Walch after the war, and built a house in 1946 on his



Oregon Century Farm & Ranch Program

25 acres and raised his sons there. During the 50's & 60's off farm income was necessary due to the economy. Cecil worked at a sawmill, tile factory, and the local school over the years. Their son Dennis purchased the 25 acres in 2012 from his mother Elsie who had maintained and farmed it since Cecil's death in 1997. Dennis and Sandy built a home on the site of the original farmhouse, renovated the original barn, and replaced some of the older outbuildings. The Burley farm has gone through changes in goals for the farm over the years, but in the end appreciates being a part of an industry that teaches about where food comes from. Today, the farm raises meat goats, hay, and maintains a miniature Scottish Highland cattle herd. Dennis is the grandson of founders Cyrus & Mabel Burley.

Fox Farm: Founded in Tillamook County in 1922 by Ocorra Syvilla Fox. Applicant is James Royal Fox Jr.

In 1922, Orra Fox bought 96 acres from an Issac Hiner, who had split off pieces of the property and added pieces prior to this transaction. This resulted in a property that is completely land locked with the

acreage beginning at Beaver creek at about 100 ft elevation, rising in a series of benches to an elevation of about 800 ft. Orra bought it as a timber investment, but passed away in October 1923, shortly after the farm purchase. Her son Royal was the next owner. He had to pay over \$800 in fees upon his mother

Orra's death to keep the property, thus the story that the Fox farm was bought twice by the family. Royal Fox worked in wood mills in Mill City Oregon prior to relocating to Tillamook Co. On the farm he raised milk cows as well as raised an orchard and fields of produce that he sold in local markets through the years of the Great Depression, also working in wood mills to supplement farm income. He married Bessie

Gitchell in 1927 and raised three children. James Royal Fox Sr was born to them on the property in 1931. He grew up working on the farm, and as an adult worked in wood mills. Jim married Laura Winters in 1956 and the couple had five children. The Fox farm is heavy in timber and currently raises beef cattle & orchards. The applicant James "Jim" Royal Fox Jr. is the great grandson of the founder Ocorra "Orra" Fox.

Kessi Farms: Founded in Lincoln County in 1916 by Zebulon A. & Olive Kessi. Applicants are Brad & LuAnn Kessi.

In 1916, Zebulon & Olive Kessi purchased 120 acres on Feagles Creek in Lincoln County Oregon. Zebulon had come from Indiana in 1911 with his young family. He soon after purchasing the first 120 acres, homesteaded another 160 acres that was adjacent to the first purchase. In the first years of the farm, trees and brush were cleared along the Feagles Creek to allow for farming of vegetables that included green peas, carrots, turnips, rutabaga, kale, and sugar beets. These were sold as a cash crop for income. They also raised livestock feed for cattle, oat hay, grass hay, vetch and red clover for hay. All the farming and tilling during these early years was done by horse power and manual labor. Zebulon also raised a small heard of Jersey



Oregon Century Farm & Ranch Program

milk cows. This was later switched to Red Poll cattle and Duroc hogs. They would haul the pork by wagon to the nearest railroad nearly 20 miles away to be sold. Soon after Zebulon's passing in 1942, Don purchased the farm from his older brother and sister, who had inherited it. Don continued most of the family's farming and dairy practices as well as adding an irrigation system. Don also worked full time in the timber industry. He added beef cattle to the operation and also added to the farm by purchasing adjacent homestead properties. In the 1950's Don introduced the breed of North Country Cheviot sheep to the United States, importing them from Alberta, Canada. He spent 35 years raising and showing North Country and Lincoln sheep all over the US and Canada. In 1959, Don's son Delbert joined him on the farming and ranching operation. The 1960's and 70's was a time of much growth and advancement. They added acres as well as developed many improvements to the land including land clearing and draining, irrigation, fencing, and new building construction. Delbert's son Brad joined the family business in 1983 after marrying his wife, LuAnn. Today the farm raises commercial beef cattle, hay and timber. Brad is the great grandson of founders Zebulon A. & Olive Kessi.

Klicker Homestead Berries LLC: Founded in Umatilla County in 1895 by Almina Ross-Garland Klicker. Applicants are Daniel A. & Vernon J Klicker

In 1891 Almina Ross Garland, a recent widow, arrived in the Mill Creek Area of Umatilla County with her two small children. She filed her claim for a 160-acre parcel of land located in the Northeast corner of Oregon, 12 miles Southeast of Walla Walla, WA. at the mouth of Henry and Web Canyons. Almina was a resourceful woman who built her home using salvaged lumber from a flume that had been destroyed by floods. Her brother and uncle helped her build her first cabin. In 1892 Almina met a neighboring homesteader, Jake A. Klicker and within 2 years they were wed. In 1894 Almina's uncle and brother built a second story onto her cabin, making a dormitory style addition which Almina turned into a successful Hotel/Resort. Almina discovered a mineral spring on her property and she developed this natural resource by piping the mineral water to a 500-gallon wooden tank that then heated the water and delivered hot mineral water to three zinc bath tubs. Almina called her business Klicker Mineral Springs Resort. Up to 250 renters/campers each summer would buy milk, eggs, butter and vegetables from Almina who raised Jersey cows, beef cows, hogs, sheep, chickens and garden crops to support her business in the early years of the farm. On April 18, 1895 Almina proved up on her homestead and received her 160-acre homestead documents. In early 1920's sons Jacob and Delbert formed Klicker Brothers and Sons and they started raising strawberries and cattle. The new homestead Log Cabin was built with 5 bedrooms and running water in 1922. By the 1950's Almina's Grandsons established a new commodity of Christmas Trees. In the early 1980's Almina's Grandson, Delbert Jr. moved into the homestead log home and replaced Strawberries with Blueberries. The first crop of blueberries was harvested in 1986. Delbert's sons, Dan and Vern now operate the blueberries and Christmas trees. They have visions of returning the homestead to Almina's original dream of a modern day Bed & Breakfast nestled in the hillsides, surrounded by blueberries and Christmas trees. The remaining homestead properties support cattle production and grazing. Land management through conservative logging practices has also added income to the homestead. Dan & Vern are the great-grandsons of Almina, the founder. Vern's children are the 5th generation of Klicker's living at the Homestead.



Oregon Century Farm & Ranch Program

Rastovich Family Farm: Founded in Deschutes County in 1922 by George & Anna Rastovich. Applicant is Rob Rastovich.

George and Anna both immigrated from Yugoslavia separately before meeting and marrying in Spokane, WA. In 1919, they packed up their young family and headed south after hearing about “knee high” grass in Bend, Oregon. They took advantage of the Homestead Act which provided them with 40 acres upon which to build their lives. The official warranty deed was finalized in 1922 for the forty acres. The early crops were potatoes, rye, alfalfa hay, cattle, chickens, and hogs. Cream from the milk was sold to Bend Dairy and the hogs were butchered for home cured bacon, hams, loins, lard, sausages, head cheese, and cracklings. It was said nothing was wasted but the squeal. There was also a very large garden with various fruits and vegetables to feed the family. In the early 1950’s, they sold the dairy cows and transitioned to beef cattle while continuing to raise hay. Throughout the years everyone in the family pitched into help. Danny, the youngest son of George and Anna, ended up staying and helping his parents during WWII, while the older brothers served in the military. Despite wanting to serve his country, he had to apply for a deferment when he was 18 so he could continue to help his father on the farm. In 1950, one of Danny’s cows gave birth to Deschutes County’s first test tube twin calves. Over the years, the farm has grown to 200 acres, and the "home 40" continue to be a place for extended family to return and reminisce. Danny’s son, Rob, farms the land today with his daughter, Emily. They continue to raise beef cattle, feeding them a mixture of hay and spent grains from local breweries. Rob is the grandson of George & Anna Rastovich

The Sesquicentennial Award program began in 2008 in honor of Oregon’s 150th birthday celebration. Sesquicentennial awards recognize Oregon families who have continuously farmed portions of their original family acreage for 150 years or more. Fifty-one (51) families have now received this prestigious sesquicentennial award.

The 2022 Sesquicentennial families being honored are:

Chapman-Dickey Farms: Founded in Yamhill County in 1852 by William Chapman. Applicant is Vane Dickey.

William Chapman came via the Oregon Trail on the John Bewley wagon train. He became friends with the four sons of John as well as his daughter Lorinda Bewley. Lorinda was a beautiful blonde hair blue-eyed woman. William fell in love with her quickly. The two became separated on the trail when Lorinda and one of her brothers stayed at Dr. Whitman’s mission in October of 1847. She was to help Mrs. Whitman and he due to illness. The Whitman Massacre took place in November of same year, and a few days later Chief Five Crows of the Cayuse Indian tribe sent a rider to bring him Lorinda for his wife. She did not want to go, but was told she’d be better off if she did. There were priests that gave her shelter and persuaded the chief to not force her to be his wife. She survived the Whitman Massacre and was set free when Peter



Oregon Century Farm & Ranch Program

Odgen came with his trading goods. The chief tried to persuade her to stay and become his wife, but she did not wish to so he let her go and she reunited with her family in Oregon City. She became a school teacher and saw William Chapman often and they married in 1849. They moved to Sheridan and settled the William Chapman Donation land claim. The early crops were prunes, grains, and dairy cows. William paid \$4.39 in taxes in 1853 for his 640 acres. William donated land to the City of Sheridan so it could develop more business. The farm was transitioned in 1891 to son Frank Chapman then onto Helen Chapman Dickey and husband Glen in 1942, and then to their son Glen William in 1981. Today the farm raises wheat, clover, and grass seed. Glen's son Vane Dickey now operates the farm and is the great-great grandson of William Chapman.

Hindman Ranch: Founded in Union County in 1872 by William B. Hindman. Applicant is Shirley Ann Hindman.

Willam B. (WB) Hindman came to Baker Oregon via wagon train in 1864. He engaged in running oxen teams that hauled freight from Umatilla to Grand Rhonde Valley and on up to the mines of the Boise Basin. He did that for about five years. He took some time off to teach school in Summerville 1865-66. In 1872, WB filed his homestead act claim to 160 acres as was allowed by the act. He lived on the land and farmed it for 5 years then was granted title and deed to it in 1877. The WB homestead and patent deed has historical significance because it was the first one made East of Elgin. WB continued to farm raising grain, beef cattle, and hogs as well as teaching school in Summerville. He married in 1887 to Cornelia Jane Garrett. It was said that WB was very close friends with Chief Joseph of the Nez Perce tribe and that the tribe would come dig camas roots at the Hindman Ranch. During the Indian scare of 1877, WB wrote his family saying he felt safe and did not need to hide or desert his land due to the relationship with Chief Joseph. WB's son Luther followed in his father's footsteps, and took on farming and was also very active in city government. He fully took over the ranch in 1927 when WB passed away. He was blessed with two daughters and one son Billy. Tragically, Luther was killed in a tractor accident in 1944 and son Billy was only 20 years old. He stepped up seamlessly to run the ranch. He married Reta Follett in January of 1949 and welcomed a daughter a short nine months later, Shirley Ann and two sons after that. Billy was recognized over his time farming for many things including conservation, cattleman's association, & rodeo associations. The most notable was his involvement in bringing a PRCA rodeo to his home town of Elgin, the Elgin Stampede, which has become the heart and blood of the Hindman family. Upon Billy's death in 2003 the ranch management went to wife Reta. Shirley worked side by side with her mom to run the ranch as her father did. When Reta passed in 2008, the ranch was split 50/50 between the sons Cody Jay & Scotty Bill; the original homestead was in Cody's half. Cody farmed through 2018 and was able to utilize the ranch for not only cattle but timber too. Improvements made to the property by Cody included building roads and reinforcing bridges and creek banks. Shirley Ann, bought the ranch in 2018 and set out to preserve and restore it to the way it was when her parents owned it. The schoolhouse for the Hindman School District #36 est. in 1882 is still present and in good repair on the ranch. The ranch raises cattle and pasture for both cattle and horses. Tamara Hindman Severe daughter of Scott Bill is also now very involved in the day to



Oregon Century Farm & Ranch Program

day operations of the ranch. Shirley Ann is the great granddaughter of founder William B. Hindman.

Ringo Family Farm: Founded in Clackamas County in 1865 by Harbert C. & Huldah Ringo. The applicant is LuAnn Ringo Nelzen

In 1865, Judge Joseph Ringo and his family, son Harbert C. and wife Huldah and other Ringo relatives left Missouri with a wagon train and many head of cattle. Harbert's son Robert L. was born on the banks of the Snake river that August. Harbert and Huldah purchased the 160 acres of land on October 25, 1865 from Ezra and Fanny Stout. The other Ringo relatives also purchased many acres of land in the vicinity as well and it became known as Ringo Point. Judge Ringo later moved to the Palouse country for some time. The family also brought with them two of their free slaves, William Livingston, and their old cook Aunt Lucy who refused to be left behind in Missouri. The early crops were cattle, berries, wheat, alfalfa, & various grain crops. The original home was built around 1865 era, it still is used today although some renovations have occurred over the years. A barn was built in the 1940's. Boyd Ringo the great grandson of Harbert & Huldah also worked full time at the paper mill in Oregon City while farming the land during his tenure. In the 1970's Boyd built a pond and picnic area on the farm, he was a POW in WWII and he built a park so he could invite his POW friends out to campout, fish, and spend time together. Boyd passed away in 2001 while he was the NW Commander of the POW chapter. Luann Ringo Nelzen, his daughter took over all the planning on his behalf and had over 100 people out to the farm and the community fixed and huge luncheon for them. In 2003, a log pavilion was built in honor of him by Luann's husband, and sons, Wayne & Jerry. The logs used to build the pavilion came from the farm and many hours were spent on this labor of love. It now serves as the community park. It is busy all summer with weddings, memorials, & gatherings. The importance of this land has been instilled into every member of the family. Today the farm is planted in Christmas trees and is managed by Luann Ringo Nelzen who is the great great granddaughter of founder Harbert C. and Huldah Ringo & the great great great granddaughter of Judge Joseph Ringo.

Sherer Family Farm: Founded in Linn County in 1852 by David & William Sherer. Applicants are Cathy Hess and Christine Bithell.

In 1852, David Sherer Sr. and his wife Sarah, and the five children moved by wagon train from Illinois to Oregon. David died on the north loop of the Platt River near North Bend Nebraska. Upon arriving in Oregon, Sarah and son David Jr. were both assigned lots in Linn County. Son William subsequently acquired Sarah's parcel so that is why her name does not appear on any DLC maps. David Jr. was the driving force behind the 20-year breeding program of Cotswold Sheep and Poland China swine. The other early crops were horses, grain, and hay. Upon deaths of David Jr. and his brother William, Abner & Elmer, sons of David Jr. took over the operation of the farm. They co-owned the farm until Abner's death. Elmer was a very lazy man who was motivated by very little, so upon his brother's death he had to take on a more active role, but the bulk of the work went to his son Yates. He was doing all the farming after Abner's death, so when the land came to him through succession in 1959 it was a seamless transition. Grass seed



Oregon Century Farm & Ranch Program

became a perfectly suited crop to raise in the valley. Much of the work in the early years of raising this was done with a two bottom plow and harrow. Combining was done with a tractor pulled combine with Evelyn (wife of Yates) sewing seed sacks then dropping for later pick up. After his retirement from farming, Yates became a licensed real estate broker & appraiser. He developed a niche for the stock market as well during those years. Yates and Evelyn adopted two daughters Cathy and Christine. Yates grew up in the original house “The Homestead House” but moved to the Yates Farmhouse upon his marriage. Today the farm raises annual ryegrass, and fescue, but occasionally meadowfoam and wheat for rotation. Cathy & Christine and their children now all own the farm through the management of Yates & Evelyn Sherer LLC. Bob Laylon (great great grandson of David Jr.) does all the farming now. Cathy Hess & Christine Bithell are the great granddaughters of founder David Jr. and great grandnieces of founder William Sherer.

Every Oregon farm and ranch has a unique history and special family story. The Oregon Century Farm & Ranch program encourages agriculture families to share, with a broader audience, these stories. By promoting family stories, rich cultural heritage is passed down to future generations while educating Oregonians about the social and economic impact of Oregon agriculture.

The Oregon Century Farm & Ranch Program began in 1958 to honor farm and ranch families with century-long connections to the land. To qualify for a century or sesquicentennial award, interested families must follow a formal application process. Members of the Application Review Committee review each application against the qualifications, which include continuous family operation of the farm or ranch; a gross income from farm use of not less than \$1,000 per year for at least three years out of five prior to application; and family members must live on or actively manage the farm or ranch activities. Application documentation may include photos, original deeds, personal stories, or other historic records. These records help support Oregon’s agricultural history by providing valuable information about settlement patterns or statistics on livestock and crop cycles. All documents are archived for public access.

Award recipients receive a certificate signed by the Governor and Director of the Oregon Department of Agriculture. Historic roadside signs are imprinted with the founder’s name and the year the ranch or farm was established.



Oregon Century Farm & Ranch Program

The Oregon Century Farm & Ranch Program is administered by the Oregon Agricultural Education Foundation. It is supported by a partnership among the Oregon Farm Bureau, the State Historic Preservation Office, OSU University Archives, and by generous donations of Oregonians. For information about the Oregon Century Farm & Ranch Program, contact Andréa Kuenzi, Program Coordinator, at 503-400-7884 or cfr@oregonfb.org. The application deadline for 2023 is May 1. Please see our website for more information: www.centuryfarm.oregonfb.org