

Oregon Century Farm & Ranch Program Awards 2024
Family Narratives
As of 08/20/24

Century Awards (14):

Austin Farm: Founded in 1913 near Roseburg in Douglas County by William and Belle Austin. Applicant is Dorothy B. Austin.

William Austin along with his wife Belle and son William Merl Austin moved from Geneseo, Illinois to Oregon in 1913. William and his son were florists and they raised flowers, greenery, and other plants, eventually taking ownership of The Fern, a flower shop in downtown Roseburg. When William died in 1939, his son, Merl took over the farm. Merl had married Bernice Roser in 1925, and she took over management of The Fern. The couple had three children: Barbara, Marie, and William Merl Jr. (who went by Bill). Barbara worked in the greenhouses that the Austin's built on the property while Marie worked at the flower shop. Bill raised beef cattle and grew hay. When Merl died in 1979, Bill and his wife Dorothy took over management of the farm, further developing the farm for cattle and hay farming. Dorothy continues to manage the farm after her husband's death in 2007. Ten years later, Nick Austin Sonka, Dorothy's grandson, joined the farm after his graduation from Oregon State University with a degree in Animal Science. Nick, who is in the fifth generation of the Austin family, raises sheep on the property.

Chapin Ag Lands: Founded in Marion County in 1924 by Luther John Chapin. Applicants are Ron M. and Shelly J. Chapin.

The Chapin family farm, located in Mission Bottom, began with Luther John Chapin, who moved his wife Nellie and family from Salem to the farm in 1924 with dreams of becoming a successful tulip grower. Luther started the "Chapin Bulb Farm" with his two oldest sons, raising tulips, daffodils, hyacinths muscari, and lilies. In addition they maintained a small Jersey dairy, hogs, corn, wheat, boysenberries, vegetable produce and garden plants for sale.

In 1941 their son, Jack Chapin, became involved in the farm after attending Willamette University and Oregon Agricultural College, and married Mary Barker the following year. Jack received an agricultural deferment to supply food for the war effort, which led to the expansion of the dairy for milk and to growing flax used for parachute harnesses by the US Army. Other diversification included onions raised for seed, sweet corn and alfalfa. After the war, the dairy was sold and more cannery crops were grown. Luther passed away in 1955 and ownership of the farm went to his wife Nellie.

In the 1960s, the farm transitioned to more seed crops, and the first hazelnut orchard was planted in 1969. Jack continued to modernize the farm, including the purchase of mechanical corn harvesters. In 1976 Nellie passed away and Jack assumed full ownership of the farm. Jack and Mary's sons, Bruce and Ron Chapin, continued the family legacy of innovation and grew the farm by purchasing additional property. Bruce, who returned to the farm after graduating from OSU, focused on expanding the property and improving crop yields. Ron, with degrees in Agriculture and Electrical Engineering, brought technological advancements to the farm's operations.

Today, the Chapin family farm consists of seven separate businesses, producing hazelnuts, cherries, and hazelnut nurseries, and providing local services for cleaning and drying hazelnuts. Now a fourth generation of Chapins have entered the family business and they have been given a path toward independent self-employment in farming, ensuring the farm's continued success. Bruce and Ron Chapin are the grandsons of founders Luther John and Nellie Chapin.

E.M. Cap Waterman Farm: Established in 1923 near Myrtle Point in Coos County by Clyde A. Waterman. Applicants are Richard and Bobbye Conn and Ronald and Judith Mason.

In 1923 Clyde A. Waterman purchased land from A.B. and Kittie Collier in Myrtle Point. A year later Elvin Markus "Cap" Waterman would acquire the farm from his oldest brother Clyde. Elvin Markus "Cap" Waterman married Amanda M. Johnson in 1926 and the couple had four children: Lillian Marie, Elvin Fred, Earl Franklin, and Robert Edward. In 1950 Elvin Fred married Darlene; the couple lived on the farm and built a house in the 1960s that remains on the property today. Elvin Fred and Darlene had four children: Judith Elizabeth, Deanna Leigh, Bobbye Jean, and Carolyn Jo. Timber management has been an important component of the farm with Clyde, Elvin M, and Elvin F. logging the property. Today Judith and Bobbye both manage timber on the farm and Judith maintains a herd of cows on the property.

Borgard Family Farm: Founded in Coos County in 1919 by Conard Melvin (C.M.) Borgard. Applicants are Eric and Betty Albertson

Conard M. Borgard was born in South Dakota in 1896 to Norwegian immigrants. Due to his fragile health as a newborn, his family relocated to the milder climate of Oregon's coast, where they purchased a farm on Lampa Creek in Coos County. Conard and his wife, Mildred Hope Welch, whom he married in 1929, began dairy farming, continuing the tradition his family brought from Norway. They raised four children, with their eldest daughter, Faye Lavelle Borgard, eventually purchased the farm. Faye married George W. Albertson in 1950, a logger who learned the dairy business from Conard. The couple lived on the farm, and Faye worked for Mountain States Power Company for 47 years. Mountain States Electric Company later became Pacific Power and Light. Their son, Eric Albertson, continued the family tradition, moving into the original farmhouse with his wife Betty in 1978. They raised their children, Scott and Erin, on the property, marking the third generation to live on the farm. The farm has seen significant evolution over the decades. Originally focused on dairy, with a preference for Jersey cows, operations shifted to beef in the mid-1990s. Today, Eric continues to run the farm, which now produces hay and silage, supplementing the farm's income with custom services for local farmers. The farm's orchard, once home to a diverse array of fruit trees, now maintains a few resilient trees, whose fruits are still harvested and preserved annually. The farm will soon welcome the next generation of family as Scott and Jessica Albertson and their family return to establish "Enlisted Roots," a grass-fed farm operation that will focus on dairy, beef, chicken, pork, and eggs. Their vision for sustainable agriculture and direct farm-to-consumer relationships promises to carry the family legacy into the future, enriching both the land and community. Eric Albertson is the grandson of founder C.M. Borgard.

Flanagan Farms, Inc.: Founded in 1924 in Lane County by Charles Bartlett (Bart) Flanagan. Applicant is Charles Flanagan

Flanagan Farms, located near Junction City, Oregon, was founded by Charles Bartlett Flanagan (Bart) in 1924. Born in Nevada in 1892, Bart moved with his family to Marshfield, Oregon, where he became an expert horseman. After graduating from Oregon Agricultural College (now OSU) in 1915 with a degree in animal husbandry, Bart served in World War I before returning to Oregon, where he and his wife, Clara Rutherford, farmed the property.

Bart and Clara started a dairy and raised various crops, including vetch, oats, and wheat. Bart was a pioneer in the grass seed industry, experimenting with different species in test plots. During the Great Depression, Bart employed neighboring farmers on his threshing crew, helping them avoid foreclosure. Years later, several of these neighbors sold their farms to Bart when they retired, and soon the farm grew from 80 to over 500 acres.

In 1939, Bart built a new stanchion barn that included a milk house for cooling and storing milk cans. He was also very active in the development of the 45,000-acre Amazon-Flat Creek drainage project north of Eugene, along with several agricultural boards and associations.

Bart and Clara's eldest son, Gerald Flanagan, took over most of the farm work in the early 1960s. He oversaw the expansion of the sheep flock for breeding stock, and implemented many improvements and upgrades to the dairy operation. Gerald and his wife, Margurette, had seven children, all of whom worked on the farm. The family faced challenges, including a devastating fire in the 1960s and personal tragedies. Despite these hardships the family persevered, eventually deciding to share-crop 1,200 acres of the farm with another local farmer.

After Gerald's passing in 2007, his son Ronald assumed management responsibility of the share-crop farm operation. Today, Flanagan Farms operates as Flanagan Farms Inc., with current shareholders from the Flanagan family dedicated to preserving the farm's legacy. The farm remains a central gathering place for the family, and the fifth generation is now learning about the rich history and traditions of Flanagan Farms.

G Bar S Ranch: Founded in 1918 in Forest Grove in Washington County by Frank Adelbert Vanaken. The applicant is Glen Arthur Spiesschaert.

In 1918, Frank Adelbert Vanaken purchased the farm from Bernard and Martha Schweers and moved his wife Ella and children Delbert, Alfred, and Mae onto the property, which was originally a small dairy farm. Crops including sweet peas, corn, alfalfa, red clover, hay, and small grains were grown to support the Guernsey herd. Mae married George Spiesschaert in 1940 and the couple first settled on George's family farm. Three years after they were married, Mae and George moved back to the Vanaken farm, where they expanded the farm from 40 to 210 acres and raised their six children. The children included Darrel, Kay, Dean, Lyle, Joan and Glen and each child contributed to the success of keeping the farm in the family. In addition to the dairy herd, George and Mae added beef cattle and draft horses. George was instrumental in starting the Oregon Draft Horse Breeders annual horse plowing event and was happiest when working the fields with his team of horses. Mae served as the ranch's bookkeeper; she also maintained a large garden and canned and preserved food for the family. After his high school graduation, George and Mae's son Glen remained on the farm, eventually assuming operation of the dairy farm. In 1982, Glen and his brother Lyle took over operation of the farm and this has continued to the present day. In 1986, Glen married Delee Johnson. The couple had two children that they raised on the farm. Their son Ben continues to live on the farm and is an active participant in operations. Their daughter Lisa owns animals on the farm. Glen later discontinued the dairy portion of the ranch, focusing on Black Angus cattle and swine.

Gulick Cattle Co.: Founded in 1903 in Halfway in Baker County by John S. Gulick. Applicant is Stan Gulick.

John Gulick along with his wife Sarah returned to Oregon in 1903 after having spent time in California. They bought property near Halfway, Oregon raising cattle and horses. In 1910, they built a two story house on the property which is still used today. The ranch was passed on to Charles Gulick, the son of John and Sarah in 1937. It would later be passed to Stan Gulick, the son of Charles Gulick. The ranch continues to raise livestock and hopes to continue to this for the next 100 years. Stan Gulick and the grandson of founder John Gulick.

Lyda Farm: Founded near Banks in Washington County in 1908 by William Henry Lyda. Applicants are Christopher Lyda and Lisa Lyda Carpenter.

William Madison Lyda, born in Tennessee in 1836, moved with his family across the country several times. After he married his wife Martha, the couple moved to Washington County, Oregon from Silver City, New Mexico in 1878. William owned a sawmill business and the couple had five children including William Henry Lyda. William Henry would sell his father's sawmill and bought a farm from JD Rode in 1908. At this time the farm grew wheat, barley, oats, and grains. When William Henry died in 1926, his son Alfred Claude Lyda took over farm operations two years later. Along with keeping draft horses and raising sheep, the farm grew wheat, clover, hay, malt barley, and oats. Alfred Claude and his wife Rosa had two children, Lenore and Vernon. Vernon farmed alongside his father and received the deed to the farm after his father's death in 1977. In addition to farming, he also operated the Lyda Brothers Logging Company and Coastway Lumber Company. Vernon farmed for the rest of his life. In 1963 his son Donald Vernon Lyda, known as Don, starting farming with his father. After five years, Don decided to become an electrician, giving other family members opportunities to farm the land. Vernon died in 1985, deeding the farm to Don and his sisters, who leased the farm to a brother-in-law that used it to grow wheat and berries. In 2021, Don deeded the property to his son Christopher Lyda and daughter Lisa Lyda Carpenter. The siblings bought out the remaining family members who no longer wanted to farm. Christopher manages the farm and oversees the leases of the property for continued agricultural purposes. Christopher is the great-great grandson of William Henry Lyda.

R & B Farms: WA Imrie Conn: Founded in Melrose in Douglas County in 1909 by William Albert Imrie. Applicants are Richard Imrie and Bobbye J. Conn.

William Albert Imrie, originally from Canada, purchased the property in 1909. William and his wife Arvilla Jane Beeks lived on the property. The couple had 9 children who inherited the farm after their father died in 1940. Early crops included barley, oats, hay, cows, and sheep. One of the siblings, Ethel Estella, along with her husband Henry Roscoe Conn, their oldest son Roscoe Imrie Conn, and his wife Mona Elizabeth Conn purchased the property from the rest of Ethel Estella's siblings. Roscoe Imrie Conn was able to use the money he won playing poker on his way back from serving in World War II to purchase the property. In 1973, Roscoe Imrie Conn's son Richard Imrie Conn as well as his brothers, Michael E. Conn and Gregory S. Conn, were added to the property. In 1994, Richard Imrie and Bobbye Conn were granted portions of the property, gifting portions to other family members over time. Three generations live on the farm today. They raise cattle, horses, and hay. Richard Imrie is the great grandson of William Albert Imrie.

Shady Place, LLC: Founded in Polk County in 1917 by Gustav & Anna Jahn. Applicant is Pamela E. Dalton

Gustav and Anna Jahn, immigrants from Germany and Austria, respectively, established their family farm in 1917 near Monmouth, Oregon in Polk County. After meeting in Portland, the couple moved to the area with their growing family and built a home on the 40-acre parcel they purchased that same year. Over the years, Gustav and Anna raised six children in that home. Gustav, who initially worked in the Portland shipyards, transitioned to logging in Valsetz after being laid off during World War I because of anti-German sentiment. With the income from his logging work, he expanded the farm by purchasing additional land, including a 40-acre parcel in 1929 and another 26.76 acres in 1946. This land, along with the original parcel, became the heart of the Jahn family's tree farming operations. Their son, Robert Jahn, who was born in the family home in 1918, took over the farm after Gustav's passing. Robert, a World War II Navy veteran, returned after the war and focused on managing the family's logging and farming operations. He expanded the farm to almost 1,000 acres, including establishing a cherry orchard in 1959.

After Robert's passing in 1996, his son Chester took over management of the property for a few years, until his sisters Pamela, Linda, and Teresa could manage the property. Today, Pamela and her husband Jock Dalton have consolidated about 700 of these acres under Shady Place, LLC by buying land from her siblings. Together, they have made significant improvements to the farm's infrastructure, including road and bridge construction and pond rebuilding. Working with the Oregon Department of Forestry and the Natural Resource Conservation Service, they have developed written plans for the future management of property. Shady Place, LLC has been recognized by Marion/Polk Chapter of the Oregon Small Woodlands Association as Tree Farmer of the Year in 2023. The Oregon Tree Farm System named Shady Place, LLC 2024 Oregon Tree Farmer of the Year State Winner. Pamela Dalton is the granddaughter of founders Gustav and Anna Jahn, and seven generations of the Jahn family have lived on the property. Pamela Dalton is the granddaughter of founders Gustav and Anna Jahn.

Shiver River, LLC: Founded in Benton County in 1921 by Marion C. & Wladzia Brent. Applicant is Diana Blakney

Shiver River Farm traces its roots to 1921 when Marion C. Brent and Wladzia "Wegi" Grabarek Brent purchased the land shortly after their marriage. Wegi, who immigrated from Poland in 1906, had previously married Edwin Moneta, with whom she had four children. After Edwin's tragic death in a railroad accident, Wegi remarried, and the Brents established their family on the farm. The farm was passed down to their children, Matt and Emma Virginia, in 1952.

For the first few decades, Shiver River Farm focused on milk and wheat. However, in the mid-1950s, the focus shifted to sustainable forestry under the stewardship of Emma Virginia. Her dedication to maintaining a healthy, sustainable forest became a cornerstone of the farm's legacy. She worked closely with professional foresters, including Scott Ferguson of Trout Mountain Forestry, to ensure that the land was managed with care and foresight. The farm's forest management practices were documented in the 1997 publication "The Non-industrial Private Forest Case," and its ongoing commitment to sustainability has made it a model for forest stewardship.

Today, the farm remains under the careful management of Emma Virginia's children: KC, Diana, and Sid. Despite their diverse backgrounds—KC, a retired Lt. Col. in the Air Force; Diana, a retired lawyer; and Sid, a former university professional and floor trader—the siblings have continued the family legacy by maintaining the farm's forests, managing timber harvests, and participating in conservation projects. The farm has been recognized for its efforts, earning the Benton County Tree Farmer of the Year award in 2019 and the Watershed Steward Award in 2016.

Shiver River LLC, now managed by the third generation, stands as a testament to the family's enduring commitment to sustainability. With ongoing forest management and conservation efforts, the farm continues to provide a thriving habitat for wildlife and a legacy of stewardship that will benefit future generations. Diana Blakney, KC Thompson, and Sidney Picht are the grandchildren of founders Marion and Wegi Brent.

Turner Ranch: Established in Heppner in Morrow County in 1884 by R.W. and Mary May Turner. Applicant is Turner Ranch Inc.

R.W. Turner was visiting his sister Luella and her husband in Eastern Oregon when he learned of 160 acres of land that were available near his sister's property. R.W. purchased the property and he and his wife Mary lived on the ranch, raising cattle, later turning to sheep and grain. The couple had eight children, and eventually transferred the property to their son Samuel Jackson Turner in 1922. Samuel lived with his wife Nora Doherty Turner on the ranch with their three children. The couple expanded the property in 1946 with an addition of 700 acres, operating the ranch as a dry land business, growing grains and raising cattle. Samuel and Nora operated the farm until Samuel's death in 1956. Samuel and Nora's son Kenneth Jackson Turner, known as Ken, graduated from Oregon State University and moved back to

the property to help his mother with operating the ranch. Ken married Jean Ann Swanson in 1958 and the couple moved onto the property and had four children. Ken was named Soil Conservation man of the year in 1964 and was respected for his irrigation innovation. Ken and Jean Ann also expanded the ranch, bringing the property to nearly 6,000 acres. Ken worked on the ranch until the last days of his life, passing away in 2009. Jean Ann would follow three years later.

Prior to that in 1993, Melissa Turner Lindsay, Ken and Jean Ann's daughter, had moved back to the ranch with her husband Todd upon the completion of Todd's service in the U.S. Navy. Todd joined the ranching operation with Ken and Jean Ann and the younger couple built a home for their family on the ranch in 1999. Ranching operations transitioned over time from Ken and Jean Ann to the Lindsays, with the Lindsays taking over operations in 2008. Under their management, they have expanded crop diversity, upgraded the ranch's circle irrigation, and expanded their operation to 13,000 acres of range land, dry land, and irrigated ground. The expansion of the ranch enabled them to include their son Jacob in the day to day operations of the ranch. The Lindsays have grown mint leaf, potatoes, garlic seed, grass seed, barley, wheat, alfalfa, Timothy hay, canola, mustard, and even sunflowers. Melissa is the great granddaughter of R.W. and Mary Turner.

Villwock Farm: Established in 1910 in the Salt Creek area near Dallas in Polk County by Julius Villwock. Applicant is the Eugene E Villwock Trust.

Immigrating from Germany in 1893, Julius and Teofile Villwock first arrived in New York and slowly made their way to Oregon, first spending some time in the Bethany area near Portland before moving south to Salt Creek. Julius purchased a 29-acre farm in 1897, and he continued to add on to his property along May Road, eventually buying 60 acres of land across the road from his original property. Purchased in 1910, these 60 acres are the longest-owned property still on the farm. Early on, crops were grown to support the family, but over time hay, small grain, orchards, and gardens were planted. In 1913, Julius sold 30 acres to his son William. William married his wife Helen in 1918, six years after they first met as neighbors. William expanded the farm by purchasing an additional 88 acres in 1923. William's son Eugene purchased a farm bordering the Villwock farm in 1957. Ten years later, Helen deeded 30 acres of the original farm to Eugene as compensation for his years of labor. Eugene's son Clarence Villwock purchased a further 31 acres bordering Eugene's farm in 1987. Eugene's wife Mabel Villwock, as trustee of the Eugene E. Villwock Trust, took over ownership of the farm in 1993. Some of the main crops on the farm were prunes and cherries; now hay, small grain, cattle, and elephant garlic are grown by the family.

W.H. Grace Ranch Founded in Malheur County in 1903 by W.N. & Musa Grace. Applicant is William "Hal" Grace.

In 1902, William Nicholas Grace and his wife, Musa Florence Guyer, journeyed from Fairfield, Missouri, with their three young children to the Oregon Slope in Malheur County, north of Payette, Idaho. There they filed for 160 acres of dry land under the Homestead Act of 1862, built a cabin, and began work to "prove up" the land over the next five years. The Grace's initially used the land, which was described as a slough for its readily-available water, as free-range cattle pasture. Cattle roamed freely from the house all the way to Huntington OR some 25 miles to the north, and yearly roundups marked the passage of time. In 1913, the Payette Oregon Slope Irrigation project brought water, transforming the area into fertile farmland. William permitted the irrigation company to use part of his land for headquarters, and soon after, hay became a primary crop. In 1917, the family built a two-story house complete with electrical wiring, anticipating future electricity. They diversified their operations, raising cattle, hogs, hay, grain, and fruit. William supplemented their income with various local jobs, while his brother Pete assisted on the farm. William's son Charles expanded the ranch, adding 80 acres and building a home. Charles and Anna's son Bill continued the legacy, expanding the cow/calf herd and adapting to changing agricultural practices. Bill and his wife Shirley moved into the homestead house after William and Musa passed away.

They continued ranching and milked cows until the beef herd was built up enough to support the ranch and growing families. Bill and Shirley's son Hal, after graduating from Oregon State University in 1972, joined the ranch, further expanding it with additional land, modern irrigation, producing hay, corn silage, and cattle. Today the fourth through seventh generation of family reside on the Grace Ranch, maintaining its legacy as a family-operated enterprise. Each generation contributes to the ranch's day-to-day operations and improvements, instilling values of hard work, responsibility, and stewardship of the land in their children. William "Hal" Grace is the great grandson of founders William and Musa Grace.

Sesquicentennial Awards (2)

Martha A. Maupin Farm Founded in Douglas County in 1868 by Martha A. Maupin. Applicant is Janet Fisher.

Martha Ann Poindexter, born in Kentucky in 1829, grew up on a farm in Greene County, Illinois. At fifteen, she moved to Missouri, where she met and married Garrett Maupin in 1845. In 1850, the couple embarked on a 2000-mile journey along the Oregon Trail with their two young children, Nora and Louisa, while Martha was pregnant. They settled in Oregon, claiming 640 acres of land under the Donation Land Act in Lane County.

Garrett and Martha expanded their family, eventually having eleven children. Life in Oregon was challenging, with Garrett facing legal and financial troubles. After Garrett's accidental death in 1866, Martha, now a widow, managed to purchase a farm in Douglas County near Elkton with the help of her son Cap, who negotiated a loan for her. Martha bought the Shadrach Hudson Donation Land Claim in 1868, securing the farm for her family.

In 1886, Martha sold the farm to her sons Cap and Thomas, who later divided the land. Cap became the sole owner of Martha's original farm, adding about 100 acres to the property. Cap married twice and had eight children with his second wife, Minnie Adilla Peters. Cap was a community leader and innovator, planting the first prune orchard and growing hops in the county. Prunes became the major crop on the farm for many years.

Cap's great-nephew, Eugene H. Fisher, acquired the farm, expanding and modernizing the prune operation. Gene, a graduate of Oregon State College, married Marian Beezley, and they managed the farm, implementing the latest agricultural techniques. Gene was actively involved in educational and agricultural boards, receiving numerous accolades for his contributions, including serving on the White House Conference on Education.

After Gene's death, his daughter Janet Fisher took over the farm, focusing on hazelnuts and timber. Janet, an author, wrote a book titled "A Place of Her Own" about her great-great-grandmother Martha, highlighting the pioneering spirit and resilience of the women in her family. Janet is the great-great granddaughter of Martha A. Maupin.

Wade Ranch: Founded in Wallowa County in 1874 by Samuel & Louisa Wade. Applicant is Sam Wade

Wade Ranch, located near Lostine, Oregon and originally established in 1874 was Wallowa County's first Century Farm. Samuel Wade, his wife Louisa Evans Wade, and their daughter Jennie traveled from Iowa to Oregon and when they reached in the Wallowa country, they traded a team of horses and a wagon for a 160-acre homestead along the Wallowa River. Samuel raised cattle, horses, oats, and hay, proudly showcasing his prize-winning Percheron horses and introducing the first herd of Angus cattle in the county. Samuel was friendly with Chief Joseph and the Nez Perce tribe, trading with them frequently. Despite the turbulent times, the Wades remained on their homestead. By 1882, they built a new house that remains the family residence. Samuel's innovative spirit and dedication laid a strong foundation for the ranch. Harry S. Wade, born on the ranch in 1891, took over management in 1918. He expanded the ranch

by raising cattle, horses, sheep, pigs, and poultry, and started raising grain as a cash crop. Harry's ingenuity included building a windmill-powered water system and repurposing materials from old buildings. He served as a County Commissioner and on various boards, further contributing to the community. Merton S. Wade, the family's third generation, began managing the ranch in 1946. Under his leadership, the ranch diversified, raising Registered Angus cattle, wheat, barley, and alfalfa hay. Merton received numerous awards for his agricultural contributions and applied for, and received, Century Farm status in 1976.

Sam M. Wade, the fourth generation to own the ranch, began managing the ranch in 1965. The ranch has undergone many changes during his management. Sam focused on conservation and innovative farming practices such as No-Till farming. Sam's efforts in conservation earned him multiple awards, and he implemented significant improvements, including a comprehensive watering system for grazing cattle. In 1983 most of the dryland wheat fields were placed into the Conversation Reserve Program. Today the ranch encompasses about 2200 acres of land. Today, members of the fifth generation of family live on the ranch and assist in its management. Sam Wade is the great-grandson of founder Samuel Wade.