

WEST VIRGINIA CENTURY FARM APPLICATION

The West Virginia Century Farm Program is designed to recognize those families who have been farming the same tract of land for at least 100 years. Century Farms, Sesquicentennial Farms and Bicentennial Farms will be recognized. A Century Farm is one that has been in continuous operation by the same family for at least 100 years. A Sesquicentennial Farm has been in continuous operation by the same family for at least 150 years, and a Bicentennial Farm has been in continuous operation by the same family for at least 200 years.

A family member must live on the farm or must be an integral part of the day-to-day operation of the farm enterprise. The farm must consist of at least 10 acres of the original holdings and gross more than \$1,000 annually from farm products

How to Register

- All six sections must be completed in full.
- At least five current photographs of the farm must accompany the application. Additional photos of buildings and structures are welcomed and encouraged.
- Deed documentation must accompany this application or be witnessed.
- No photographs or materials will be returned to you.
- Owner or family member must ensure validity of the application by completing the signature area.

Ownership Rules

- The same family must have had ownership (title to the land) for a minimum of 100 years to be designated a Century Farm, 150 years to be designated a Sesquicentennial Farm, or 200 years to be designated a Bicentennial Farm. Leasing or sharecropping does not qualify for ownership.
- Line of ownership from the first family member owning the land may be through wives, husbands, children, brothers, sisters, nephews, or nieces.

Section One: Present Owners

Name of Current Owner (as it appears on the deed): _____

Farm Name (if any): _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ E-Mail: _____

Section Two: Location of the Farm

Physical Address: _____

Nearest Town: _____ County: _____

Section Three: History

Name of first family member to own the land (the "founder"): _____

Date the founder purchased or acquired the land: _____

Number of acres in original tract: _____ Cost (if known): _____

Place (country) where founder was born: _____

Use of land by founder (crops grown, commercial use, etc.): _____

Reason for founder or ancestors migrating to West Virginia: _____

Do any of the original buildings remain on the farm? _____ Yes _____ No

If yes, please describe and provide photographs: _____

Please provide other pertinent, interesting, or historical information regarding the founder and any subsequent owners --- use additional pages if needed. This information will be used to prepare the narrative description of your farm for media releases.

Section Four: Current Information

Please check one:

The farm has remained in the family for at least 100 consecutive years. _____

The farm has remained in the family for at least 150 consecutive years. _____

The farm has remained in the family for at least 200 consecutive years. _____

How many generations removed is the current owner from the founder? _____

What is the current number of acres in the farm? _____

How many acres of the original tract are still owned? _____

Does the farm produce at least \$1,000 in agriculture products each year?

_____ Yes _____ No

Please detail any agriculture production (crops grown, livestock, etc.) that occurs on the farm: _____

Is the farm operated by a family member or is it leased? _____

Is there a house on the property? _____ Yes _____ No

If yes, how old is the house? _____

If yes, please list the current residents and their relationship to the owner:

Please include any additional information on off-the-farm activities, such as involvement in community events or local agriculture-related boards, councils, etc. This information will be used for media releases.

Section Five: Summary List of Previous Owners
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<u>Founder's Name</u>	<u>Date of Acquisition</u>	<u>Relationship to You</u>
1. _____	_____	_____

<u>Next Owner's Name</u>	<u>Date of Acquisition</u>	<u>Relationship to You</u>
2. _____	_____	_____
3. _____	_____	_____
4. _____	_____	_____
5. _____	_____	_____
6. _____	_____	_____

Please provide one (1) letter of support from community leadership (for example, Cooperative Extension, Farm Bureau, Conservation District, USDA, FSA, NRCS, West Virginia Department of Agriculture, Historical Society, etc.), confirming this is a working farm.

Submission of this application does NOT guarantee recognition as a Century Farm, Sesquicentennial Farm, or a Bicentennial Farm. A full judging process will be conducted, and all parts of this application must be completed. Applications received by April 1, and subsequently approved, will be recognized at the District Annual Awards Dinner in September or October.

Checklist of Materials:

- Completed application.
- Additional pages for further explanation.
- 5-10 photographs of present and historical nature of the farm.
- 2 letters of support.

Specific Names on your Farm sign: The family of each approved application will receive two signs. The larger of the two signs will designate the farm as a Century Farm, a Sesquicentennial Farm, or a Bicentennial Farm.” The smaller sign will list the farm/family name(s).

Farm name desired on your farm sign: _____

Owner's name(s) desired on your farm sign: _____

Section Six: Certification and Signature

To ensure validity of this application, all boxes must be checked:

- By checking this box, I certify that the statements made within this form are complete and accurate to the best of my knowledge.
- By checking this box, I understand that all photos and documentation become the property of the State of West Virginia and will not be returned.
- By checking this box, I certify that the description of consecutive owners represents a true chain of title.
- By checking this box, I certify that I am the current owner, or a relative of the owner.
- By checking this box, I certify that the signature below is my own.

Name of Applicant: _____

Relationship, if not the owner: _____

Signature of Applicant: _____ Date: _____

Thank you!

Please provide names and addresses of local newspapers and other media you would want notified regarding this award.

Please return by **April 1st** to one of the Conservation District offices listed on the following page for recognition (if approved) at the September Annual Awards Dinner.

WEST VIRGINIA CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

<p><u>Capitol District</u> Kanawha County 418 Goff Mountain Rd. Suite 102 Cross Lanes, WV 25313</p>	<p><u>Northern Panhandle District</u> Brooke, Hancock, Marshall, and Ohio counties 1 Ballpark Drive McMechen, WV 26040</p>
<p><u>Eastern Panhandle</u> Berkeley, Jefferson, and Morgan counties 151 Aikens Center, Suite 1 Martinsburg, WV 25401</p>	<p><u>Potomac Valley District</u> Grant, Hampshire, Hardy, Mineral, and Pendleton counties 500 East Main Street Romney, WV 26757</p>
<p><u>Elk District</u> Braxton, Clay, Nicholas, and Webster counties 1336 State Street, Room 200 Gassaway, WV 26624</p>	<p><u>Southern District</u> Fayette, McDowell, Mercer, Raleigh, Summers, and Wyoming counties 463 Ragland Road Beckley, WV 25801</p>
<p><u>Greenbrier Valley District</u> Greenbrier, Monroe, and Pocahontas counties 179 Northridge Drive Lewisburg, WV 24901</p>	<p><u>Tygarts Valley District</u> Barbour, Randolph, Taylor, Tucker, and Upshur counties Route 4, Box 501 Philippi, WV 26416</p>
<p><u>Guyan District</u> Boone, Cabell, Lincoln, Logan, Mingo, and Wayne counties 2631 5th Street Road Huntington, WV 25701</p>	<p><u>Upper Ohio</u> Pleasants, Tyler, and Wetzel counties 10 Pleasant View Lane Sistersville, WV 26175</p>
<p><u>Little Kanawha District</u> Calhoun, Ritchie, Roane, Wirt, and Wood counties 91 Boyles Lane Parkersburg, WV 26104</p>	<p><u>West Fork District</u> Doddridge, Gilmer, Harrison, and Lewis counties Route 2, Box 204-E Mt. Clare, WV 26408</p>
<p><u>Monongahela District</u> Marion, Monongahela, and Preston counties 201 Scott Avenue Morgantown, WV 26508</p>	<p><u>Western District</u> Jackson, Mason, and Putnam counties 224-C First Street Pt. Pleasant, WV 25550</p>