



Illinois Centennial Farms Program

The Centennial Farm Program was established to honor the generations of farmers who have worked to maintain family farms in Illinois. Each Centennial Farm designee is a link to America's heritage and a reminder that the family farm remains a viable entity in today's agriculture.

The Illinois Department of Agriculture administers the Centennial Farms Program. Since the program's inception in 1972, the department has certified more than 8,000 farms.

To qualify as a Centennial Farm, an agricultural property must have been owned by a straight or collateral line of descendants of the original owner for at least 100 years. Applicants must complete the application and verification forms found on the following pages. These forms request information regarding the present owner and location of the farm, a listing of ancestral owners and third-party verification of records proving lineal or collateral descent. A recognized title searcher, such as an abstractor, an attorney or a recorder of deeds, can verify lineal descent. While completion of the application and verification forms in mandatory, completion

of the original owner information sheet found on the last page is optional.

Applicants meeting all requirements of the program are notified by mail. The owner receives an official Centennial Farm sign suitable for outdoor display and a certificate bearing signatures of the Governor of Illinois and the Director of the Illinois Department of Agriculture. All application materials and other papers of historical significance are placed on file at the Illinois Department of Agriculture.

Completed application and verification forms, along with an **\$50** processing fee, should be sent to:

Illinois Centennial Farms Program
Illinois Department of Agriculture
State Fairgrounds
P. O. Box 19281
Springfield, Illinois 62794-9281

Please make checks payable to the Centennial Farm Signs Fund.

For more information, contact the Agriculture Department at 217/785-7799, TDD 217/524-6858, FAX 217/524-5960.
Email: karen.fraase@illinois.gov



CENTENNIAL FARM VERIFICATION



I, _____,

a member of the Illinois Land Title Association (or a recognized title searcher) do hereby certify that I have searched the records and found the farm originally owned by

legally described as _____

now presently owned by _____
Present Owner)

to have been in the same family of lineal descendants for 100 years or more and that

is a lineal or collateral descendant of the original owner in a line of lineal descendency.

Signature

Name of Title Company

Address, City, State, Zip

Phone Number

Seal

ORIGINAL OWNER INFORMATION

The information requested on this page concerns the original owner within your family and is not required to receive the Centennial Farm marker, however, it is to be completed to give valuable information to the Department of Agriculture and future historians. The questions below are offered only as a guide, so please feel free to add any other data, especially family or pioneer stories concerning the farm and the area around it. Also, copies of any old farm accounts, records or diaries you may have can be included.

1. From whom was the farm purchased? _____
2. How many acres were in the original parcel? _____
3. What was the cost of the land per acre? _____
4. Where was the first owner born? _____
5. Where did he live prior to moving onto the farm? _____
6. Was this a homestead? _____
7. Did the first owner farm the land? _____
8. What improvements did he make? _____
9. Did he engage in any trades or occupations other than farming? _____

10. Is the original home, or any portion of it or other original building still standing or in use? _____

11. When was the present home built? _____
12. What are the farm's major crops or products? _____

13. Do any barns that are 50 years or older exist on the property? If so, please describe _____

Please send to: Centennial Farms Program
Illinois Department of Agriculture
Marketing and Promotion
State Fairgrounds, P. O. Box 19281
Springfield, Illinois 62794-9281



FOR OFFICE USE ONLY			
Date Certified:		Certified by:	
		Check Number:	