This form can be completed on-line, saved, printed and mailed with your remittance to:
Sesquicentennial Farms Program Illinois Department of Agriculture Marketing and Promotion State Fairgrounds, P. O. Box 19281 Springfield, Illinois 62794-9281

Illinois Sesquicentennial Farms Program

The Sesquicentennial Farm Program was established to honor the generations of farmers who have worked to maintain family farms in Illinois. Each Sesquicentennial 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 Sesquicentennial Farms Program. Since the program's inception in 2001, the department has certified more than 200 farms.

To qualify as a Sesquicentennial Farm, an agricultural property must have been owned by a straight or collateral line of descendants of the original owner for at least 150 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 Sesquicentennial 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 a **$50** processing fee, should be sent to:

Illinois Sesquicentennial 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

SESQUICENTENNIAL FARM APPLICATION

Name(s) of Present Owner: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Address / Location of Sesquicentennial Farm: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Township Name: _____ County: _____

Original Purchase Date: _____ Original Acreage: _____ Present Acreage: _____

Name(s) to appear on certificate: _____

Legal description of land (From deed or abstract): _____

_____

_____

_____

List all owners, beginning with original family owner and continuing to present owner:

Date	Name(s)	Relationship to Present Owner

The above information is true and correct as attested to by the accompanying legal document — the verification page.

_____ _____
Signature of Applicant Date

To whom should the Department address its correspondence, sign and certificate?
Name: _____
Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Phone: _____ E-mail address: _____

IMPORTANT NOTICE: This state agency is requesting disclosure of information that is necessary to accomplish the statutory purpose as outlined under 20 ILCS 205/40.7. Failure to provide this information may prevent this form from being processed. This form has been approved by the State Forms Management Center. IL406-1594

SESQUICENTENNIAL 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 150 years or more and that

_____

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

_____
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 Sesquicentennial 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:

Sesquicentennial Farms Program
Illinois Department of Agriculture
Marketing and Promotion
State Fairgrounds, P. O. Box 19281
Springfield, Illinois 62794-9281

Illinois Department of Agriculture

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