



## **THE TENNESSEE CENTURY FARMS PROGRAM**

### **APPLICATION**

- Read through the application and pay special attention to the “Requirements” to be certain that your farm qualifies.
- Complete the application answering each question as fully as possible. Submit only one application for each farm. If there are several current owners of the same farm, all owners’ names should be on one application, but one person should be the primary contact for all matters relating to the Century Farms Program.
- Submit the form and any supporting documents to the county historian or the county extension agent of the county in which the land is located for his/her signature.
- Your signature must be witnessed by a Notary Public on the certification portion of the form.
- Mail completed application form and supporting materials to:

Director, Tennessee Century Farms Program  
Center for Historic Preservation  
Box 80, Middle Tennessee State University  
Murfreesboro, TN 37132

If you have questions, please contact the Center for Historic Preservation at MTSU at (615) 898-2947 or e-mail to [histpres@mtsu.edu](mailto:histpres@mtsu.edu). The Century Farm web site at [www.tncenturyfarms.org](http://www.tncenturyfarms.org) is linked to the Center for Historic Preservation web site at [www.mtsuhistpres.org](http://www.mtsuhistpres.org).

## APPLYING FOR THE CENTURY FARMS PROGRAM

### Requirements

- You must be able to prove that this farm has been continuously owned by members of the same family for at least 100 years. The line of ownership from the first family member(s), that person or person you consider the founder(s), may be through spouses, children, brothers, sisters, nephews, nieces, or adopted children. You must prove the founding date.
- The land under consideration must be 10 acres or more of the original farm.
- The farm must produce at least \$1000 farm income during the year of application.
- One owner must be a resident of Tennessee.

Each requirement must be fulfilled for your application to be considered.

### Application Process

In the application you should provide a **clear line of ownership** from the founder and the date founded to the present owner. You must include **proof of the founding date**. Usually this is done with a deed. Copies of deeds for subsequent owners are optional.

**Photographs** of the farm's land, buildings, or owners (from any generation) are most welcome. Please write your name and address on the back, identify the photograph, and submit them with your application. You may also submit them on a CD. Photographs will be returned upon request. **Please do not send original photographs or documents, only copies.** The Center for Historic Preservation assumes the right to publish any photographs along with any information that appears within the application. To protect your privacy rights, addresses or phone number of owners and exact locations of the farm will not be published.

Completed applications must be **certified by the county historian or extension agent** of the county in which the farm is located. The **application** must also be **notarized**.

The Center for Historic Preservation reviews and processes applications three times a year. Deadlines for review are **February 1, June 1, and October 1**. Please allow 4-6 weeks from each application deadline for processing. Notification of acceptance will be made by via postal letter. An **announcement** will be posted on the Century Farms Facebook page, and one (1) **sign**, provided by the Tennessee Department of Agriculture, will be issued for each farm.

In cases where separately owned farms have evolved from the founder's original acreage by family members and meet all other requirements of the program, each farm may qualify as a Century Farm. Each owner must make application for his/her farm.

**SECTION I: CURRENT OWNERSHIP**

Owner # 1 should be the person submitting the application and will be considered the primary contact for the farm. This person will receive any correspondence associated with the Century Farms Program. For each additional owner, give the following information:

1. Last name: \_\_\_\_\_ First name: \_\_\_\_\_ Initial: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
*(route, box, or street) (city) (zip code)*

County: \_\_\_\_\_ Day phone number: \_\_\_\_\_  
*(in which you reside)*

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

2. Full name (last name first): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
*(route, box, or street) (city) (zip code)*

County: \_\_\_\_\_ Day phone number: \_\_\_\_\_  
*(in which you reside)*

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

3. Full name (last name first): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
*(route, box, or street) (city) (zip code)*

County: \_\_\_\_\_ Day phone number: \_\_\_\_\_  
*(in which you reside)*

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Please provide the same information for any additional owners on the back of this page or a separate page.

## **SECTION II-A: HISTORY OF THE LAND –The Founders of the Farm**

1. Land Location (example: Davidson County, 2 mi. NE of Nashville, Hwy 41A):
2. Name of the first family member to own the land (hereinafter known as the “Founder”):
3. Name of founder’s spouse:
4. Name and/or number of children:
5. Date founder acquired title to the land (**you must include a copy of legal documentation, such as a deed, will, or census record, that proves the founder’s ownership and the date the farm was founded**):
6. Number of acres in founder’s original farm or ranch:
7. Types of crops and livestock grown by founder:
8. Events and activities occurring **on the farm** during the founding owner’s lifetime related to the development of the farm or ranch, the history of the community, and the history of Tennessee (please add additional pages as you wish):

## **SECTION II-B: Second Owners of the Farm**

1. Name(s):
2. Relationship to founder:
3. Year this owner acquired the property:
4. Name of this owner's spouse:
5. Name(s) and/or number of children:
6. Number of acres in farm at this time (if known):
7. Types of crops and livestock grown by this owner:
8. Important events and activities occurring **on the farm** during this owner's lifetime related to the development of the farm or ranch, the history of the community, and the history of Tennessee (please add additional pages as you wish):

## **SECTION II-C: Family Owners between the Second Generation and Current Owners**

For each owner between the second generation and the current generation, please provide the same information that you have in Section II-B on a separate sheet. To keep the information organized, you might title each separate generation as Third Owners, Fourth Owners, and so on. This information is most important to show the clear line of ownership and the history of the farm from the founders to the current ownership. Submitting deeds for each owner is optional.

### **SECTION III: Present Ownership**

1. Year you acquired land:
2. Your relationship to the founder:
3. Your spouse's name:
4. Number of generations living on the land today:  
Identify relationships of generations (example: "Owner and son's family, Mr. and Mrs. John Jones and their children, Jim age 5, Joy age 8"). Please be specific, including correct spelling of names and relationships, as we will use this information when preparing the press release and website entry.
5. Number of acres farmed by you that were owned by founder:
6. Crops or livestock produced on the farm during the current owner's time on the farm, including what is produced today:
7. Are any buildings constructed in or earlier than 1960 still standing?  
If so, please describe their physical appearance and original and present-day use. Enclose photographs if possible and use additional space as needed.
8. Is this property on the National Register of Historic Places or recognized by a local historical organization (give the name of organization)?
9. Who works the land today? Give name and relationship (of any) to owner of property.
10. Who is the manager of the farm if other than the owner?
  - a. Is the owner actively engaged in the everyday operation of the farm?

## **SECTION IV: People, Events, Stories Related to the Farm**

In each section of ownership we have requested that you describe events, people, or stories about the farm, the history of the community, and the history of Tennessee that took place on your property.

Because the Center for Historic Preservation also administers the Tennessee Civil War National Heritage Area, we are especially interested in people, events, and stories associated with the period 1860-1875 that encompasses the Civil War and Reconstruction. However, we are also interested in events and stories that impacted or occurred on your farm from any period of Tennessee history. For example, if land was given for a school or church by the family during the 1890s, that is important.

Also any **awards or honors** the farm and family received at different times, including the current generation, would be welcome information. For example, if someone was/is involved in the Home Demonstration Club, 4-H, or Farm Bureau, or similar agricultural organizations, include that information. Use additional pages as needed.

### **Information for Application Processing**

Name of Farm (such as Elm Hill Acres or McDow Farm):

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**If no name is given, we will register the land under the last name of the present owner. In some instances, a farm in your county may already be registered under the name you have given. If that should be the case, we will contact you to ask you to select another name for your farm.**

**CERTIFICATION PAGE**

**Part 1 – to be completed before and by a Notary Public**

I declare that the statements made in this application are accurate and correct to the best of my knowledge.

\_\_\_\_\_  
*(signature of current farm owner)*

Subscribed and sworn to before me this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20 .

\_\_\_\_\_  
Notary Public

My commission expires on the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20 .

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**Part 2 – to be completed by the County Historian or County Extension Agent**

I declare that \_\_\_\_\_ appeared before me on  
*(name of owner)*  
\_\_\_\_\_ with substantiating evidence that the land now in his/her possession has  
*(date)*  
met the stated requirements of the Tennessee Century Farms Program.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_ County Historian  
or  
\_\_\_ County Agent

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Mail the completed application and supporting documentation, including photographs, to:

Director, Tennessee Century Farms Program  
Center for Historic Preservation  
Box 80, MTSU  
Murfreesboro, TN 37132

**We suggest that you keep a copy of this application and supporting materials for your files.**