



Oregon Century Farm & Ranch Program

A program of the Oregon Farm Bureau Foundation for Education

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

July 15, 2015

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Oregon Century Farm & Ranch Program 2015 Family Narratives

Century Awards:

Cheyne Farm-Founded in Klamath County in 1909 by Alex B. Cheyne. Applicant is Brent A. Cheyne

Alexander Cheyne, Alec, as he was called by his family, purchased 80 acres in the late fall of 1909 and started the clearing and making the land a productive farm the spring of 1910. Early crops included wheat as the “cash” crop, rye for hay to feed livestock, and oats & barley. Eventually clover and alfalfa were also raised on the farm. Potatoes were also added in early 1920’s and continued until 1971. Current crops haven’t changed much, but the farm boasts a herd of registered Angus cattle and pasture, as well as crops from their history of wheat, oats, barley, & alfalfa. Alec died in a farm accident in 1938 forcing his two young sons, Alvin & Charles, to take over the management and operations of the farm, yet while still growing up themselves, alongside their mom Crystal. Brent, son of Alvin, is the current owner and grandson of the founder.

Charles Ludwig Falk Farm- Founded in Linn County in 1903 by Charles L. Falk. Applicant is Aart & Sheri Falk.

Charles L. Falk purchased the 160 acres in 1903. He and his wife Odelia had 10 children. The farm has produced livestock and crops its entire history. The farm currently raises grass seed and supports lamb and beef production. The original barn is still standing although the original date is unknown. Charles was injured in 1925 in a railroad crossing accident while driving his team along Pacific highway (99E). He gifted the property 80 acres each to his children, Henry and Chris, in 1921. Chris eventually deeded his property to his brother Henry and his wife Esther. In 1969, a nephew, Louis Falk Jr. and wife Ina bought the property. Aart is the son of Louis Falk Jr. and great grandson of founder.



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Louis R. Falk & Anna Falk Farm-Founded in Linn County in 1907 by Louis R. Falk. Applicants are Aart & Sheri Falk & Steve and Jana (Falk) Moore.

Louis R. Falk Sr. purchased the 160 acres in 1907. He and his wife Anna married in 1909 and had 9 children. The early years of this farm included grain and dairy cattle. They grew lots of corn, plowed with horses, and had all the farm animals of that time. Louis Sr. died in 1955 with his son Louis R. Falk Jr. inheriting and buying the property in 1955 and 1969. The Falk family is known for their ability to grow crops, raise livestock, and build things from wood and metal. Good cooks in the family are legendary and the abundance of food at family gatherings is what friends and neighbors recall. The farm today raises grass seed. There are fruit trees planted by Louis Sr. and Anna that still raise fruit for great grandson Mike Moore and great-great grandson Andrew Moore. Janna Moore & Aart Falk are the grandchildren of founder.

Hynes Farm-Founded in Marion County in 1889 by Edward O. Hynes. Applicant is Evelyn Hynes.

Edward O. Hynes purchased the original farm in 1889 from the Klosner family. The early crops on the farm included grain, hay, straw, Jersey cattle, & hogs. They also raised potatoes starting in 1912; there is still an original potato digger on the farm today. Edward O. deeded the farm to his boys Frank, Edward J. and Dennis. Edward J. and Dennis sold their part to Frank. Frank and son Maurice operated the farm raising turkeys, strawberries, grains, straw and hay. In 1931 the barn burnt and Frank and Maurice were badly burned. Maurice sold it to cousin Tom Hynes (son of Edward J.) in 1974. Maurice also added to the farm acreage by purchasing an additional 100 acres of adjoining land. Tom Hynes raised strawberries, corn, beans, grains, hay, Christmas trees & Suffolk sheep. Kent Hynes (son of Tom) started farming with his dad in 1982. Crops had changed some over the years to sugar beets, flower seeds, onions, & grass seed. They have also added meat goats to the farm in recent years. Currently Joe Hynes (son of Kent) took over in 2011 and farms the land raising grass seed, peas, and Scottish Highland cattle. Evelyn is the widow of Tom Hynes who was the grandson of founder.

Taghon Farm-Founded in Washington County in 1915 by Theophile Cappoen. Applicant is Joseph & Jennifer Finegan.

Theophile purchased the first property in 1915, and additional 30 acres was added in 1919. In 1920 one of Theophile's daughters Pauline married a Rene Taghon, and they started operating the farm when her parents moved to CA to be with another one of their daughters. Rene was a butler by trade so operating a farm was quite an undertaking. They officially purchased it in 1927 from her parents, and made many improvements over the years. Many acres of timber were cleared by hand and horse in the early 20's. They had one son Henry Taghon. He grew up working alongside his dad. Henry and his wife Irma married in 1940 and in 1945 bought the farm from Rene. He continued to raise a variety of crops including dairy cattle. The milk was put into cans and traveled to McMinnville to be sold to what is now known as Darigold. He also raised cannery crops; peas and pumpkins, and seed crops; wheat, barley, oats. Joseph Finegan,



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Henry's grandson, purchased the farm in 2005 and continues to raise grass seed, wheat, clover, sweet corn, green beans, & nursery stock. Joseph Finegan is the great-great grandson of the founder.

Fisher Patterson Farm-Founded in Marion County in 1915 by Theodore & Lucinda Fisher. Applicant is Evelyn Fisher/Katherine Patterson Fisher POA.

Theodore & Lucinda purchased the original 80 acre farm in 1915 after their sawmill business burned to the ground. They raised chickens, sheep, cattle, hogs, and grain on the farm. The barn was built first and the house about a year later in 1916. They still are in use today. They sold eggs to a local grocer in Sublimity. He also owned a steam engine and harvested grain for local farms around the area. There were two sons born to Theodore and Lucinda, Donald and Bob. They both farmed in the area with their dad, with Donald farming a piece that was inherited from their dad's business partner in the sawmill. Bob married Evelyn and they had a daughter Katherine. When Theodore died, they moved to the original farm and farmhouse and Don continued farming the other piece. In the 1950's grass seed and self-propelled combines came onto the farm. Bob built a grass seed cleaner from the old hog shed. He also raised sheep and cows into the 1990's. He also grew grain and hay to feed the livestock. Grass seed, hay, and grains are now the primary crops grown on the farm by Katherine and her husband Terry. Evelyn Fisher is widow of Bob Fisher son of founder. Kathy Patterson is granddaughter of founder.

Christensen Farm-Founded in Linn County by Ben & Margaret Williams in 1909. Applicant is Hubert & Carolyn Christensen.

Ben Williams purchased the 765 acres near Rowland in 1909 after selling his ranch in Colorado and preparing to move his family to Oregon. They raised grain, cattle, horses, chickens, & turkeys. He and his wife Margaret had four daughters. Mr. Williams hired an Andy Christensen to work for him while in Colorado. Ben asked Andy to help him get moved to Oregon and he helped load two freight cars with household goods, farm machinery, 17 horses, feed, and bedding for animals. Andy and Ben's daughter Katharine, were married and after Mr. Williams passing in 1910 took over the farm. About 295 acres of the original land purchase was sold to settle the estate. The rest was divided between Katharine/Andy and her siblings and mother Margaret. Andy & Katharine continued raising livestock, hay, and grains. They had 2 sons & 2 daughters, the sons Anders Benjamin (Ben) & Leonard continued to farm with their dad until about 1963. Leonard managed the farm after his dad's passing in a share crop relationship with Carl Warden, while Ben purchased a neighboring farm and raised livestock and grass seed. Hubert Christenson grandson of Andy & Katharine and son of Ben purchased the farm from the estate of Katharine in 1987 to keep the farm in the family. The main crop is grass seed, and Hubert maintains all the management decisions with the Warden's share crop relationship still today. Ben Christensen is now 101 years old and has many fond memories of growing up and working on the farm. Hubert is the great grandson of the founder.



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McCready Ranch-Founded in Klamath County in 1915 by Franklin & Nellie McCready. Applicant is Greg Harris and Richard Bell.

Franklin and his wife Nellie came to Oregon from Wyoming. He purchased 160 acres of land known as a Klamath Indian allotment, Oregon Dick allotment in September 1914 at a public auction. The family arrived in Oregon in April 1915. They were true pioneers as they left a fine home with cook and housekeeper in Butte City. They had 5 children. They raised beef cattle and Franklin delivered butchered meat to the logging camps in the area. With this success they added more land to the ranch. Pauline McCready their fifth child met Earl Harris in high school and later married him. He worked on the ranch for Franklin before becoming a veterinarian. Earl Harris served in the war after the Pearl Harbor attack, but with the war's end Earl, Pauline and family returned to the ranch. They continued to build up their beef cattle herd, and purchase more land for the ranch as the years went by. Of the four surviving grandchildren of Franklin and Nellie; Greg Harris DVM and Richard Bell own the ranch now and continue to maintain and operate it. They have a herd of registered Black Angus cattle and sell breeding stock and grass fed beef. They are the grandchildren of the founders.

Padget/Martin Ranch-Founded in Sherman County in 1910 by Jesse & Jennie Martin. Applicant is Deanna Padget.

Jesse and Jennie Martin purchased the initial land in 1910. He farmed the ranch until his death in 1932. They had three boys; Kenneth, Donald, & Bernard. They raised wheat and beef cattle on the ranch. Of the three boys Bernard stayed and continued to farm the ranch with his wife Sallie. They added another piece of land in 1942. This has become the ranch headquarters today. They had a daughter named Deanna who went onto marry a Dale Padget. Dale and Bernard continued to farm the ranch until 1975 when Bernard retired. This is when the ranch name changed to Padget Ranches. Dale and Deanna grew the operation by raising seed wheat and cattle. Today, most of the cattle are gone except for a few feeder cattle, but Padget Ranches has grown to one of the largest certified/registered seed wheat producers in Oregon. Deanna Padget is granddaughter of founder.



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Gentleacres -Founded in Polk County in 1914 by Thomas & Carrie Gentle. Applicant is Madeline J. Hall Fisher and Joseph Fisher.

Thomas and Carrie Gentle purchased the Parker Farm in 1914 after being here in Oregon since 1911 with their 5 children. They brought with them 14 Jersey dairy cows from Wisconsin, they traveled by passenger and freight train. They raised dairy cattle until the 1950's and also raised sheep, hogs, and chickens. They also grew all the livestock feed as well. The oldest son James, and his brothers operated the farm with their father Thomas. James attended college at OSU and returned home to operate the dairy and other livestock. In 1936, James and his wife Olive were granted a ½ interest in the farm from his parents. They used horses in the 1930's and later purchased tractors. Later, their daughter Caroline and her husband purchased Thomas and Carrie's ½ interest upon Thomas's death and farmed with her parents for a time. They moved

from the farm but still maintained their interest in it. The farm is now operated in part by Madeline Hall and husband Joseph while part is leased to other producers with the family maintaining management decisions with the other producers, mainly grass seed or cereal grain rotation. They also produce sheep, laying hens, & eggs. Madeline is the great granddaughter of founder.

Bingaman Enterprises-Founded in Union County in 1882 by Peter & John McDonald Jr. Applicant is Gregory L. Bingaman.

Peter and John Jr. were brothers who purchased the farm with the help of their father in 1882. Peter ended up buying John Jr.'s portion in 1903. The early farm produced alfalfa, wheat, and horses. Peter died in 1925 and his son George came home to help his mother on the farm. George was one of the first farmers to raise grass seed in the Grande Ronde Valley. He also installed a seed cleaning plant and raised peas, wheat, and sheep. George died in 1954. His wife continued the farm with hired help until daughter Barbara came back to and married Elwyn Bingaman. They dug a well on 160 acres that George and Lyla had purchased in the 1930's. They raised dry land grass, other seed crops, sheep, and cattle. Barbara's son Greg came home after college to work on the farm. With the help of his father, Elwyn, he dug another irrigation well making all the farmland today irrigated. The farm today raises mint cuttings that are used for plant first generation. He also has a mint still with his cousins and operates machinery sales and retail store named Pioneer West. Greg is the great grandson of the founder.



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Sesquicentennial Awards:

Mid Valley Farm/Flint Family-Founded in Washington County in 1865 by Benjamin Talbot Flint. Applicant is Harlan & Beverly Flint.

Benjamin Flint purchased the farm in 1865 from the Humphrey Donation Land Claim. He set up the farm with his herd of sheep and began working the ground to feed his family. The farm transitioned to beef, dairy, grain, and hay when son Arthur Benjamin started farming with his father B.T. He extended the crops raised to accommodate the cattle and purchased a threshing machine and was able to help neighbors with their crops as well. They registered the farm as Mid Valley Farm in early 1900's. Waldo Benjamin Flint, son of A.B. was born on the farm and continued the farm raising cattle, changing over the dairy, and also raised walnuts, fruits, grapes, and vegetables to sell and feed his family. His brother Leland drove milk truck and sold most of the milk to Darigold. Harlan, Waldo's son, milked cows all his life, but upon graduation, the dairy diminished and the farm started into raising hogs. Harlan and his wife Beverly have made their home on the farm, while raising their one daughter, Sadie. The farm's walnut orchard still produces nuts, chestnuts, and a nephew Jeff Boswell (grandson of Waldo) also raises apple rootstock. Harlan is the great grandson of founder.

George W. Smith Ranch-Founded in Coos County in 1865 by William DeLaFletcher (WDLF) Smith. Applicant is George W. & Alicia L. Smith.

WDLF purchased the farm's first 95.39 acres in 1865 by land grant. An additional 80 acres was also added by Land grant in 1884. Crops and livestock were historically raised on the farm including dairy, fish, fruit, corn, potatoes, timber, horses, and donkeys. The fruit orchard was swept away in a flood in 1890 that consisted of cherries, peaches, pears, apples, plums, crab apples and quince. WDLF's sons, Bill and George F. took over the farm around 1896. George F. took full responsibility after Bill's death and his sons helped him continue the ranch/dairy. He was one of the founding members of the Coos River Creamery that burned in the 1950's. George F's sons (Max, Carl, Cecil, & Donald (Jimmy) took over the dairy/ranch after his death in 1940, finally tiring of milking cows they transitioned it to a cow/calf operation. At the ranches 100-year anniversary in 1965 George W. (son of Cecil) took over the ranch. The cattle herd then consisted of 18 head of beef cattle, and has increased and decreased over the years with breeds of polled Herefords, Red Angus, & Santa Gertrudes. Hay and haylage is produced each summer to feed the cow/calf operation. George W. is the great grandson of founder.



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James Monroe Hemphill Farm- Founded in Umatilla County in 1865 by James Moroe & Elizabeth Hemphill. Applicant is Charles W. Hemphill & Richard C. Hemphill.

James and Elizabeth bought squatters rights began to homestead a quarter section. The deed was recorded in 1865. They later took a pre-emption on 120 acres that became the nucleus of their original farm. The early crops were chicken, horses, cows, grain, & hay. Wheat and sheep ranching predominated over the years and increased through WWI and depression. Dairy cows were added during WWII and sheep were discontinued after WWII due to low wool prices. Dairy ended in 1955 with conversion to a 25 head cow/calf operation. James sons both worked with him on the farm, but son Carl and wife Nellie continued the farm in early 1900's, while brother Alfred homesteaded a different farm above home place on Birch creek. Carl built a second small home in 1912 for his mother Elizabeth, and his family moved into farmhouse. They had seven children, with his son Wilbur and wife Marie continuing the farm in 1963 after buying out his sisters' interest. The raised chickens and dairy and sold their milk to Pendleton creameries. He continued to farm with his two sons, Richard and Charles until his retirement in 1977. Charles and wife Dinah managed and operated the farm until their retirement in 2007. Their son Colin continues the farm's history today and raises dryland wheat, alfalfa, irrigated pasture, & a cow/calf operation.

AB Lieuallen Century Ranches-Founded in Umatilla County in 1864 by Josiah Lieuallen. Applicant is A. Brooks Lieuallen.

Josiah Lieuallen made claim to the original 96.7 acres in 1864. The family (Josiah, wife Joannah & 4 children) traveled 5 months by ox team in 1863. The families 5th child, George Washington, was born on the way to Oregon. Five more daughters came once settled in the area of Athena. He built a house and began to cultivate approximately 18 acres of the land. Early crop was wheat. Josiah and his wife Joannah passed away in 1889 and 1890 and the farming operation went to their sons and son-in-laws. In 1903 son George W. became the sole owner buying out the other heirs' shares. George and wife Olive purchased an additional 108 acres adjoining the original homestead. George W. passed early in life leaving the operation to wife Olive. Olive continued it until her sons Alton Brooks and Ronald formed a partnership to continue the ranch. They raised wheat, peas, & cattle. Alton Brooks Sr. married Maxine Preas and had three children. Their son, A. Brooks Jr. later took over the ranch after his father's death in 1982. His mother continued to be very involved, but after his mother's death in 2006 he and wife Kathy formed a new partnership with daughter Shandi and son-in law Kevin Scheibner. The ranch now raises wheat, alfalfa hay, and cattle. A Brooks Lieuallen (Jr.) is the great grandson and Shandi is great great granddaughter of founder.



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John F. Adams Farming Enterprise-Founded in Umatilla County in 1865 by John Franklin Adams. Applicant is John W. Adams.

John F. Adams came west in 1865 and homesteaded in what is now known as Adams, OR. He purchased 3 pieces of property near Coldsprings/Holdman near the Columbia River, property in Adams, and mountain property. These three areas served as winter, spring, & summer pastures. The first livestock on the ranch was sheep. He also branched out into growing wheat and raising cattle. John F. Adams was the Founder of Adams Oregon. The ranch has now raises wheat and peas. It has been passed down to through the generations to great grandson John W. Adams. John W. Adams is the great grandson of founder.

The Oregon Century Farm & Ranch Program is administered by the Oregon Farm Bureau Foundation for Education. It is supported by a partnership among the Oregon Farm Bureau, the State Historic Preservation Office, OSU University Archives, and by generous donations of Oregonians. For information about the Oregon Century Farm & Ranch Program, contact Andréa Kuenzi, Program Coordinator, at 503-400-7884 or cfr@oregonfb.org. The application deadline for 2016 is May 1.

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