



Oregon Century Farm & Ranch Program

A program of the Oregon Farm Bureau Foundation for Education

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

August 2, 2016

Media Information Contact:

Andréa Kuenzi, Program Coordinator

503-400-7884 or cfr@oregonfb.org

Oregon Century Farm & Ranch Program Awards Century Status to 6 Farms & Ranches and 5 Sesquicentennial Farms in 2016

(Salem, OR) – At the annual awards ceremony at the Oregon State Fair, families from across the state will receive recognition for operating as Century or Sesquicentennial (150-year) Farm or Ranch. The 2016 ceremony will be held on **Saturday, August 27, 2016, at 11:00 am at the Oregon State Fair**. The public recognition ceremony and awards celebration will be held in the **Picnic Grove Boots N’ Brew Area**. Please join us for this special event that celebrates Oregon’s agricultural heritage.

Six farms and ranches from six different counties will be honored this year as Century Farms or Ranches and five farms from four different counties reached Sesquicentennial status, bringing the total number of Oregon Century Farms and Ranches to 1,181 & Sesquicentennial to 38. The Century farm and ranch families being honored in 2016 are: Mel & Linda Omeg, Omeg Family Orchards: Wasco County; Doris Alley, Alley Ranch: Sherman County; Carman Ranch LLC, Carman Ranch: Wallowa County; Lois Mills, M Christensen Family Farm: Yamhill County; David Grossen, Peter Fred Grossen Farm: Washington County; Kenneth & Earl Davenport, Alder Glade Farm: Marion County. (See narratives below)

The Sesquicentennial Award program began in 2008 in honor of Oregon’s 150th birthday celebration. Sesquicentennial awards recognize Oregon families who have continuously farmed



Oregon Century Farm & Ranch Program

portions of their original family acreage for 150 years or more. Thirty-eight families have now received this prestigious sesquicentennial award. The families being honored this year are Carolyn Colson, Mosby Century Farm: Lane County; Louise Cox/Smith L. Cox, Jesse & Ruby Looney Farm: Marion County; Thomas and Zan Ewing, Maple Hill Farm: Marion County; Gordon Zimmerman, Gordon Zimmerman Farm: Yamhill County; Floyd & Betty Jo Smith, Smith Bros Farms, LLC: Linn County. (See narratives below)

Every Oregon farm and ranch has a unique history and special family story. The Oregon Century Farm & Ranch program encourages agriculture families to share, with a broader audience, these stories. By promoting family stories, rich cultural heritage is passed down to future generations while educating Oregonians about the social and economic impact of Oregon agriculture.

The Oregon Century Farm & Ranch Program began in 1958 to honor farm and ranch families with century-long connections to the land. To qualify for a century or sesquicentennial award, interested families must follow a formal application process. Members of the Application Review Committee review each application against the qualifications, which include continuous family operation of the farm or ranch; a gross income from farm use of not less than \$1,000 per year for at least three years out of five prior to application; and family members must live on or actively manage the farm or ranch activities. Application documentation may include photos, original deeds, personal stories, or other historic records. These records help support Oregon's agricultural history by providing valuable information about settlement patterns or statistics on livestock and crop cycles. All documents are archived for public access.

Award winners receive a certificate signed by the Governor and Director of the Oregon Department of Agriculture. Historic roadside signs are imprinted with the founder's name and the year the ranch or farm was established.



Oregon Century Farm & Ranch Program

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 2017 is May 1.

Family Narratives:

Century Awards:

Omeg Family Orchards-Founded in Wasco County in 1905 by August & Edna (Morgan) Renken. Applicants are Mel & Linda Omeg.

August (Gus) purchased the land in 1905. Early crops included cattle, hay, apricots, cherries, peaches, & watermelon. As the region became more oriented to apple, pear, & cherry production, the farm followed suit and went from raising a variety of crops and animals to a large-scale fruit production (mainly cherries, but some apples as well). The main crop today is sweet cherries and the farm has been able to grow and acquire adjacent lands that had once been owned by the Morgan family (Edna's) as well. Mel's son Michael and his family now manage the farm. Mel is the current owner and grandson of the Founders.

Alley Ranch-Founded in Sherman County in 1915 by Tom (TW) Alley. Applicant is Doris Alley TR of Douglas P. Alley Family Trust.

TW Alley came to Sherman County in the early 1900's and bought and sold various properties in the county. In December 1915 he bought the property, 639 acres that is now known as the "home place". The early crops were wheat, oats, barley, cattle and horses. Over the years, the farm has continued to grow wheat and barley utilizing conservation practices to keep the land in optimal condition. Dwight and Charmayn Alley (son of Doug & Doris Alley) now farm the land with many family members helping out throughout the seasons. Doris as trustee of the Douglas P Alley Family Trust is the current owner and Doug was the grandson of the founder.



Oregon Century Farm & Ranch Program

Carman Ranch-Founded in Wallowa County in 1913 by Jacob Weinhard. Applicant is Carman Ranch LLC.

Jacob Weinhard purchased 2500 acres in 1913. An additional 40 acres was added in 1915. Early crops included wheat, barley, oats, alfalfa, cattle and pigs. In the early 1970's this changed to wheat, cattle, and hay. The ranch currently raises cattle and pigs and no longer raises wheat. Kent Carman, Cory Carman Flynn, & Dave Flynn make up Carman Ranch LLC and are the current operators and owners of the ranch. Kent is the great grandson of founder, while Cory is great-great granddaughter of the founder. Dave Flynn is the husband of Cory.

M Christensen Family Farm, LLC-Founded in Yamhill County in 1900 by John D. and Louisa Goffrier. Applicant is Lois Mills.

John and Louisa Goffrier purchased approximately 300 acres from D.S. Holman and his wife, Martha, in August 1900. The early crops were grains and grass seed. Lois can remember crops of vetch, rye grass, wheat, oats, barley and red clover. Horses worked the land in the early years. For a time, there were some dairy cows as well as pigs and sheep. By the 1950's the livestock was gone and today, the primary crop is grass seed and grain. The straw from the fields has become a marketable commodity for the farm. Lois Mills is the granddaughter of the founder and is the current principal owner along with her four children who each hold a small percentage of ownership. Marianne, Lois' daughter, is regularly involved in the farm management discussions. Lois' grandson, Jeff Hendricks, now resides on the farm with his family.

Peter Fred Grossen Farm-Founded in Washington County in 1904 by Peter Fred Grossen. Applicant is David Fred Grossen.

Peter bought 72 acres from Peter Wolfe in 1904. Peter finished clearing the land, planted an apple orchard, and established a dairy farm and creamery with Brown Swiss cows. Early crops also included wheat, oats, barley, hay, potatoes, & Swiss cheese. Today, the apples and potatoes are no longer grown as the market for them in the area changed and weren't marketable in Portland area. The main crops currently are hay, wheat, Brown Swiss Cattle and Swiss cheese. David Grossen is the great grandson of Peter Fred the Founder. He owns 25 of the original 72 acres, while remaining family members own and operate the balance.

Alder Glade Farm-Founded in Marion County in 1916 by John H. and Mollie Markland Davenport. Applicants are Kenneth & Earl Davenport

John and Mollie Markland purchased the approximately 85 acres from Charles F. Hicks in 1916. The land was part of the original donation land claim of Thomas L. Coon. It is believed he and two others are buried on the property and the grave markers were still present when John bought the property. The early crops were sheep, Jersey cattle, chickens and hogs. They grew the hay, grain, & corn to feed the livestock. They farmed with horses as well. The main farming



Oregon Century Farm & Ranch Program

activities today are a registered flock of Cheviot sheep, Wagyu cattle, hay, & other commercial sheep. The applicants are grandsons of John & Mollie Markland.

Sesquicentennial Awards:

Mosby Century Farm—Founded in Lane County in 1852 by David & Isabelle Mosby. Applicant is Carolyn D. Colson.

David Mosby came to Oregon in 1850, settling his donation land claim of approximately 283 acres just outside of Cottage Grove in 1852. Mosby Farm has passed through inheritance in the family as an operating farm and ranch since the original donation land claim. Early grain crops, hay, and timber were farmed and harvested with horses. Hogs were raised and hams smoked in the smokehouse to be sold in Portland. Cattle have been raised and grazed since the early days, moving from polled Herefords to Black Angus twenty years ago. Over the past ten years the farm has produced less hay and grazed more cattle. The farm currently runs up to 100 cow/calf pairs or 200 feeders and harvests winter hay as the grass volume allows. The applicant is the niece of Polly Hatch Mosby wife of David C. Mosby who was the grandson of the founder.

Jesse & Ruby Looney Farm/Cox Family—Founded in Marion County in 1846 by Jesse & Ruby Looney. Applicants are Louise Cox & Smith L. Cox.

Jesse and Ruby Looney traveled on the first wagon train to Oregon, led by Dr. Marcus Whitman and arrived in the Oregon Territory in 1843. Opposing slavery, they left Missouri to seek human freedom and a home elsewhere to raise their family. They homesteaded land south of Salem and secured their provisional land grant in April 1846. The land had to be cleared by Jesse by manual labor and with the use of oxen and horses. Early crops were oats, barley, wheat, garden produce, beef, dairy cattle and oxen. For many years, the Looney homestead was a station of the California Stage Company route that ran between Portland and San Francisco. Today the 400-acre farm raises grass seed, sweet corn, peppermint, broccoli, squash, and cauliflower. Sheep production was a major crop for 45 years and for the past 20 years a herd of purebred Hereford cattle are being raised. The farm has remained in the Looney family for 173 years and continues today. The applicant Louise (Looney) Cox, age 92, is the great, great, great granddaughter of the founders. She's attended every Oregon State Fair since she was a little girl. Her son, Smith Cox is the 6th generation living on the farm and continues the family heritage. Both his sons Brad and Wade Cox are in the ranching/farming business.

Maple Hill Farm—Founded in Marion County in 1866 by Alexander & Christina Esson. Applicants are Thomas Ewing & Zan Ewing.

Alexander and Christina Esson bought the farm from Milton Young in 1866. It was part of the John and Sarah Carey donation land claim in 1850. The original farm had 320 acres with 290 in use today. The early crops grown on the farm included wheat, oats, logging/timber, fruit trees,



Oregon Century Farm & Ranch Program

pigs, horses, dairy cattle. Today there is no longer a dairy and row crops and grass seed are the predominant crops grown on the farm. Corn, squash, spinach, & ryegrass for seed are the current crops. The applicants are great grandsons of the founders.

Gordon Zimmerman Farm-Founded in Yamhill County in 1863 by Alexander Fryer. Applicants are Gordon Zimmerman & Gordon Dromgoole.

Alexander Fryer purchased the land in 1863. The land was part of the W.D. Clark donation land claim. The original acreage was 500+, with 83 being in use today. The farm passed through generations of family through Alexander's daughter Orpha Fryer Swingle to her daughter Oka Fryer Zimmerman who married George Zimmerman, and then to their son Gordon Zimmerman life estate interest and grandson Gordon Dromgoole who holds the beneficiary ownership interest in property. Early crops were hay, wheat & oats. The Fryer's had a large prune orchard and dryer starting in the late 1800's. The last of the orchard was removed about 1950. During and after WWII, vetch both common and hairy was raised on the farm. In the 1950's George Zimmerman and his son in law raised the grain crops, hairy vetch, field peas and feeder lambs. From the 1970's-90's Gordon Dromgoole raised various field crops such as wheat, clover seed & alfalfa. The current crop today is grass for seed. The intent for the future of the property is for Gordon D. to work with his grandkids on a hazelnut operation. The applicant, Gordon Zimmerman is the great grandson of Alexander Fryer and still lives in the home that replaced the original house of 1863 that burned in 1918. The applicant Gordon Dromgoole is the great great grandson of Mr. Fryer.

Smith Bros. Farm LLC-Founded in Linn County in 1853 by John & Sara McCoy. Applicants are Floyd & Betty Jo Smith.

John & Sara McCoy came to Oregon in 1845 on the Ben Holliday wagon train. Brother William McCoy Jr. and brother in law Dr. Washington Maley and wife Margaret McCoy Maley accompanied them on this journey. The donation land claim of John and Sara was officially recorded on an 1853 DLC map. The daughter of Dr. Maley, Irene, niece of John & Sara, married a Robert L. Smith. They became owners of the north half about 305 acres of the McCoy DLC in 1890. The original acreage was 640 and there are 180 in use today. The early crops were wheat, sheep, dairy, hogs, chickens, corn, oats and barely. Today the farm raises wheat, clover, meadow foam, fescue and other grasses. The applicant Floyd Smith is the great grandson of Irene & Robert Smith. Irene Maley Smith is the niece of founders.

###