



Dear Michigan Centennial Farm Applicant:

The Michigan Centennial Farm program is operated by the Historical Society of Michigan. Thank you for your interest in becoming a certified Centennial Farm!

1305 Abbot Rd.
East Lansing, MI 48823

Phone: (517) 324-1828
FAX: (517) 324-4370
E-mail: hsm@hsmichigan.org
Website: www.hsmichigan.org

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DTE Energy Foundation and Consumers Energy provide significant financial support to operate the Centennial Farm program. The program is also sponsored by the Michigan Electric Cooperative Association. Other utilities throughout the state support local Centennial Farm owners by sponsoring their initial Centennial Farm markers.

A copy of the formal application for Centennial Farm designation follows. Please review the form and if you have any questions please e-mail us at hsm@hsmichigan.org or contact me directly at (517) 324-1828.

When submitting your application be sure to include the requested photographs of the farm buildings and structures, and a few overall views of the farmstead, as well as the documentation on land transactions concerning the property from its acquisition by the family up to the present. A legal abstract (as drawn up by an abstract and title company) can often provide at least part of this information, if you have one available. Other sources for these transactions can generally be referenced in the tract index of the county register of deeds office, where copies of the individual records (deeds, mortgages, land contracts, etc.) can be obtained. Current ownership can be evidenced with a copy of a recent tax bill. Please be sure to send photocopies of these documents and keep the originals for your own use, as the items submitted cannot be returned.

Please send the completed application form, accompanying photographs and documentation to the address on page nine of the form and feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Thank you for your interest in the Centennial Farm Program.

Sincerely,

Shannon D. White
Assistant Director

Michigan Centennial Farm program
sponsored by:

**DTE Energy
Foundation**



Consumers Energy

Count on Us

ITEMS TO INCLUDE FOR SUBMISSION OF CENTENNIAL FARM APPLICATIONS

Please note: a farm must consist of at least ten acres, have been in the family for one hundred years, and be a working farm (producing farm products) to qualify for the program.

- 1) Application form(s) filled out and signed by farm owner(s). Be sure to write a legal description for the parcel(s) of land for which Centennial Farm status is claimed. Do not include any portions of the farm that have not been owned continuously by the family for at least one hundred years.
- 2) Documentation of ownership of each qualifying parcel of land, starting with the transaction in which the property first came into the family and establishing the family's continuous chain of title down to the present owners. Provide photocopies of abstracts and/or deeds as proof. No birth or death certificates, wills or tax records please. If you do not personally have these records you can visit your county's Register of Deeds to obtain your property's ownership history. You can also contact a title company to produce a property ownership report, commonly called a "Chain of Title" report, for a fee.
- 3) Proof of present ownership, such as a copy of a tax notice, assessment, receipt or other document from local authorities, which states both the owner's name and a legal description of the relevant property.
- 4) Film or printed digital photographs (no black and white photocopies), consisting of at least one photo of each building and structure on the farm and two or three overall views of the cluster of farm buildings. Photos should be at least 3" by 5" and should be hardcopy. The applicant may also submit digital photos of their property on a CD in jpeg format, but these images must also be submitted in printed form. Each photograph should show two sides of the building, for instance, the front and one side. Number each photograph on the back and identify the views in the Farm Buildings and Structures list on the Farm History page of the application.
- 5) A brief history of the farm, whether written on the form or on separate sheets of paper.
- 6) A map/site plan of the farm, showing the current holdings in relationship to roads and natural features, such as rivers and lakes. Indicate the location of the farm buildings with the numbers from the relevant photographs.
- 7) Please be sure to list all of the current owners of the property for which you are seeking Centennial Farm designation. Each and every owner must personally sign this page to indicate permission for us to certify the farm.
- 8) Sign the final page of the application.
- 9) Include a non-refundable application fee of \$95.00.

COUNTY: _____

TOWNSHIP: _____



CENTENNIAL FARM APPLICATION

The Historical Society of Michigan
1305 Abbot Rd
East Lansing, MI 48823

DATE CERTIFIED _____
Received: _____
App Fee: _____ Type _____
For HSM use only

Name[s] of First Family Owner[s]:

Date of Purchase by that Person: [enclose copy of deed, abstract or tax record] _____

No. of acres in original purchase _____

Farm Address: [including number, street, P.O. and zip code] _____

County: _____

Township: _____

Legal Description of land owned by your family for over 100 years. You must write description in space provided.

Number of acres in farm at present: _____

List the farm's major products today: _____

Company that supplies electricity to the farm or area: _____

Your electric company may choose to send a press release to a newspaper, please list the name and address of the newspaper of your choice:

Please provide a brief history of the farm, including information about changes in crops over time and the physical evolution of the farm and its buildings. Please provide biographical information about family members associated with the farm, including those who may have played an important role in other aspects of the community's development. Include any information you have about professional builders who constructed any of the farm buildings and structures. Enclose additional pages if necessary. Please do not leave this page blank.

Site Plan

Provide a sketch plan of your farm. You may use the grid at right, or you may create your own map. Depending on the size of your farm, designate each square as representing one, ten, or forty acres. Identify roads or highways and define your approximate property boundaries. Note the approximate location of your farm buildings and structures, using the numbers from the photographs, and of the other major features (i.e. railroads, lakes, streams, etc.). Please also mark in the plan the known locations of no longer standing man-made structures or features, including any sites of houses, barns and outbuildings, mills, logging camps or other industrial remains. Don't forget to indicate the direction North and the number of acres each square represents in your drawing, i.e. 1 square = 10 acres.

Archaeological Resources

We are interested in identifying potential archaeological sites. Any information about historic or prehistoric Indian mounds, villages, camps, dance circles or trails would be appreciated. Are there family cemeteries or abandoned cemeteries on or near your farm? Use additional sheets if necessary. If you or someone in your family has Indian, family or pioneer artifacts, including farm equipment, that you would allow us to examine and photograph, please enclose a short description

Owner Information

Please include the following information for **all current owners of the property.**

*I do hereby certify that the above statements are true and correct with regard to the land described in this application, that this land has been owned and farmed by my family for one hundred years or more, and that it is currently an active farm of 10 acres or more. Please provide the names, addresses, phone numbers and **signatures of all current owners.** By signing below all current owners agree to the Centennial Farm designation request and the use of information indicated herein..*

Name and Address (indicate address only if different than farm address)

1) _____

Signature

Daytime Phone

2) _____

Signature

Daytime Phone

3) _____

Signature

Daytime Phone

4) _____

Signature

Daytime Phone

5) _____

Signature

Daytime Phone

Enclose extra pages as necessary

Correspondence and marker will be mailed to the contact listed below.

Contact: _____

Relation to Applicant: _____

Address: _____

E-Mail: _____

Daytime Phone: _____

Centennial Farm Designation Request

By submitting this completed Centennial Farm application I am requesting that my property be certified as a Michigan Centennial Farm by the Historical Society of Michigan (HSM). The information submitted on this form is accurate to the best of my ability. I understand that HSM may attempt to verify the history of ownership with an outside organization or business and I give my permission to share information from this form for this purpose. HSM may also contact me for additional information or missing information.

Furthermore, I agree to allow the Historical Society of Michigan to make information available about my property when certified as a Michigan Centennial Farm, including photos submitted, copies of photographs submitted with this application, the address of the property as part of a list of certified farms and the name of the owner(s) and original owner as indicated above. I also agree to allow HSM to use information provided in HSM publications.

I have enclosed a non-refundable application fee of \$95*.

Signed: _____

Date: _____

Return the completed application and application fee* to:

Centennial Farm Program
The Historical Society of Michigan
1305 Abbot Rd.
East Lansing MI 48823
Phone (517) 324-1828

*Your application fee can be submitted via check or money order. Do NOT send cash. To charge your application fee to a major credit card (Visa, MasterCard, Discover or American Express) please see the next page.

For Centennial Farm Application Credit Card Charges ONLY
(Do NOT use this page if paying the application fee by check or money order)

Centennial Farm Designation Application Fee: **\$95**

Name on card: _____

Credit Card #: _____

Expires: _____ CVV Code: _____ Billing Zip Code: _____

I authorize the Historical Society of Michigan to charge my credit card for the Centennial Farm Application Fee (\$95).

Signed: _____ Date: _____