



Dear Michigan Centennial Farm Applicant:

Thank you for your interest in becoming a certified Centennial Farm through the Michigan Centennial Farm Program. To be designated as a Centennial Farm, a property must be a working farm of 10 or more acres that has been continuously owned by the same family for at least 100 years.

If your farm meets the aforementioned requirements, we encourage you to apply for certification. To apply for Centennial status, please return the following materials to the Historical Society of Michigan, located at 5815 Executive Dr., Lansing, MI 48911.

- A completed and signed Centennial Farm Application
- Documentation (i.e., deeds, mortgages, or land contracts) to establish the family's continuous chain of title
- A copy of a recent tax bill to evidence current ownership
- Photographs of the farm buildings, structures, and a few overall views of the farmstead
- A non-refundable \$95 application fee, which includes cost of sign

Once we have received and approved your application, you will receive a certificate from the Historical Society of Michigan, which operates the Centennial Farm Program. Please allow up to eight weeks for delivery of your sign.

Thank you again for your interest in the Centennial Farm Program, which is made possible by significant financial support from DTE Energy Foundation and Consumers Energy. Other utilities throughout the state support the program by sponsoring the initial Centennial Farm markers for local farm owners. If you have any questions, please e-mail [hsm@hsmichigan.org](mailto:hsm@hsmichigan.org) or call (517) 324-1828.

Sincerely,

Kellie A. Bolster  
Membership and Awards Coordinator

5815 Executive Drive  
Lansing, MI 48911

Phone: (517) 324-1828  
Fax: (517) 324-4370  
E-mail: [hsm@hsmichigan.org](mailto:hsm@hsmichigan.org)  
Website: [www.hsmichigan.org](http://www.hsmichigan.org)

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**DTE Energy  
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# MICHIGAN CENTENNIAL FARM PROGRAM

## Application for Centennial Certification



The Historical Society of Michigan  
Centennial Farm Program  
5815 Executive Drive, Lansing MI 48911  
Phone: (517) 324-1828  
Fax: (517) 324-4370  
www.hsmichigan.org  
hsm@hsmichigan.org



Office Use Only

### SECTION 1: BASIC FARM INFORMATION

Farm's Founding Owner(s): \_\_\_\_\_

On what date was the farm purchased by its founding owners? \_\_\_\_\_

I have enclosed a copy of a deed, abstract, or tax record that documents this transaction. (Required)

Farm's Address: \_\_\_\_\_

County: \_\_\_\_\_ Township: \_\_\_\_\_

How many acres were in the original purchase? \_\_\_\_\_ Number of acres currently owned: \_\_\_\_\_

Legal description of land owned by your family for the past 100+ years: \_\_\_\_\_

List the farm's major products today: \_\_\_\_\_

What company 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: \_\_\_\_\_

### SECTION 2: FIRST FAMILY OWNER HISTORY

Where was he or she born? Please include city, state/province, and country. \_\_\_\_\_

What was his or her nationality/ethnicity? \_\_\_\_\_

Where did he or she live prior to moving to the farm? Please include city, state/province, and country. \_\_\_\_\_

Was the land obtained directly from the government? If so, please explain the circumstances (i.e., veteran's grant, Homestead Act, purchase, etc.) \_\_\_\_\_

Did he or she have an occupation other than farming? If so, what? \_\_\_\_\_

Name(s) of spouse(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Marriage \_\_\_\_\_

Were these individuals married to each other at the time the land was acquired? Circle one: YES NO

Names of children: \_\_\_\_\_

## SECTION 3: CHAIN OF OWNERSHIP

Please provide documentation 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. Begin with the original family order and list ownership chronologically to the present.

Please provide photocopies of abstracts or deeds as proof. You can find these records at your county's Register of Deeds. You can also use a title company to produce a property ownership report, called a "Chain of Title," for a fee.

<b>Farm Owner</b> (Include maiden name where applicable)	<b>Relationship to Present Owner</b>	<b>Date</b>	I have enclosed proper documentation of this transaction (required):
_____	_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>
_____	_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>
_____	_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>
_____	_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>
_____	_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>
_____	_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>
_____	_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>
_____	_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>
_____	_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>
_____	_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>

## SECTION 4: FARM BUILDINGS AND STRUCTURES

Please provide a film or printed digital photograph (no photocopies) of each current building and structure on your farm. Each photograph should show two sides of the building (for instance, the front and one side).

Please also include two or three overall views of the cluster of farm buildings. Additional photographs or copies of old photographs are welcomed but not required. Please place the photographs in an envelope. Do not attach them to the form! Photographs cannot be returned.

Photographs should be no smaller than 3½" x 5½" and should be hardcopies.

Number each photograph on the back and identify the views below. Enclose additional pages if necessary.

Please, list all buildings, structures, and any other important historic features on your farm (i.e., farmhouse, barn, sheds, windmill, chicken coop, windbreaks, etc.), the approximate date of construction, and the original and current use.

Photo No.	Building/Structure	Year Built	Historic Use/Present Use
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
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_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

## SECTION 5: FARM HISTORY

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 also 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. **Do not leave this section blank.**

## SECTION 6: SITE PLAN

Provide a sketch plan of your farm. You may use the below, or you may create your own map. Depending on the size of your farm, designate each square as representing one, 10, or 40 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.). 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).


## SECTION 7: 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? 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. Use additional sheets if necessary.

**SECTION 8: CURRENT OWNER INFORMATION**

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

*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 100 years or more, and that it is currently an active farm of 10 acres or more.*

1) \_\_\_\_\_ ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
 PRINTED NAME  
 \_\_\_\_\_ CITY/STATE/ZIP  
 SIGNATURE  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 DATE PHONE

2) \_\_\_\_\_ ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
 PRINTED NAME  
 \_\_\_\_\_ CITY/STATE/ZIP  
 SIGNATURE  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 DATE PHONE

3) \_\_\_\_\_ ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
 PRINTED NAME  
 \_\_\_\_\_ CITY/STATE/ZIP  
 SIGNATURE  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 DATE PHONE

4) \_\_\_\_\_ ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
 PRINTED NAME  
 \_\_\_\_\_ CITY/STATE/ZIP  
 SIGNATURE  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 DATE PHONE

5) \_\_\_\_\_ ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
 PRINTED NAME  
 \_\_\_\_\_ CITY/STATE/ZIP  
 SIGNATURE  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 DATE PHONE

I have enclosed proof of present ownership, such as tax notice, assessment, receipt, or other document from local authorities. This document states both the owner’s name and a legal description of the relevant property. (Required)

**SECTION 9: CONTACT AND SHIPPING INFORMATION**

All correspondence and marker will be mailed to the contact listed below:

Contact Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Relation to Applicant: \_\_\_\_\_

Shipping Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

## SECTION 10: CENTENNIAL FARM DESIGNATION REQUEST

By submitting this completed Centennial Farm application, I am requesting that my farm be certified as a Michigan Centennial Farm by the Historical Society of Michigan (HSM). I understand that, to be designated as a Centennial Farm, a property must be a working farm of 10 or more acres that has been continuously owned by the same family for at least 100 years.

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 HSM to make information available about my property when certified as a Michigan Centennial Farm. This includes historical information about the farm, 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 as part of the application in HSM publications.

I have enclosed the following materials to complete this application:

- A completed Michigan Centennial Farm Certification Application
- A non-refundable application fee of \$95.\* This fee includes the cost of the sign.
- Deeds or abstracts to evidence the farm's chain of title
- A recent tax bill, assessment, or receipt from local authorities to evidence current ownership
- Photographs showing each current building/structure on your farm

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Return the completed application and application fee\* to:

**Centennial Farm Program**  
The Historical Society of Michigan  
5815 Executive Drive  
Lansing, MI 48911  
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 PAYMENT BY CREDIT CARD ONLY

To charge your application fee to a major credit card (Visa, MasterCard, Discover, or American Express), please complete the following form. Do NOT complete this page if paying the application fee by check or money order.

APPLICATION TYPE	PRICE
Centennial Certification	\$95

Credit Card Type:    Visa    MasterCard    American Express    Discover

Credit Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_ CVV Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Billing Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_  
(3-DIGIT CODE ON BACK OF CARD)

I authorize the Historical Society of Michigan to charge the Centennial Certification Application Fee to my credit card.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_