

Centennial Farms Application FAQ

How many acres do I need to own currently?

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.

What does “family” include?

Spouses, parent, child, sibling, aunt, uncle, cousin, grandparent, in-laws, etc. The family line does not necessarily have to have the same last name but must be related.

What does “working farm” mean?

Working farm is a farm whose agricultural land and buildings are in active use for crop production and/or the raising of livestock.

What is the difference between the certification applications?

A farm must first be certified as a Centennial Farm when it is at least 100 years old. Once certified as Centennial, a farm is eligible for sesquicentennial status when it turns 150. A farm can be certified as a Bicentennial if it is 200 years old or older. The farm must already have been certified as a Centennial Farm to become certified as a Sesquicentennial or Bicentennial Farm.

What information do I need to include about my farm to become a Centennial Farm?

The following supporting documents need to be turned in with the completed application:

1. Documentation to establish the family’s continuous chain of ownership (such as deeds, mortgages, land contracts, or wills) from the founding date to present day.
2. Copies of abstracts or deeds from your county’s Register of Deeds or a Chain of Title Report from a title company.
3. Photographs of the farm buildings, structures, and overall view of the farmstead.
 - a. Do not have to be original photos or buildings
 - b. Have to be printed on photo paper (no copy paper and no electronic submissions)
4. Proof of current ownership. Commonly, this is documented with a copy of a recent tax bill.

This is a surprise or gift, how do I make sure only I am contacted?

Please fill in the Contact Information on the application. Only the contact person will be contacted if additional information is needed. All mailings will be sent directly to the contact person.

Other Questions? Contact the Historical Society of Michigan at (517) 324-1828 or by e-mail at farms@hsmichigan.org