

# 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. **Most Important** - Documentation to establish the family's continuous chain of ownership from every owner from the founding date to present day. This can be in the form of copies of abstracts or deeds from your county's Register of Deeds or a Chain of Title Report from a title company (there is typically a cost for this option), deeds, wills or mortgages.
2. Photographs of the farm buildings, structures, and overall view of the farmstead.
3. Proof of current ownership, commonly, this is documented with a copy of a recent tax bill.

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