



TENNESSEE CENTURY FARMS

The Land • The People • The Legacy

A joint program of the MTSU Center for Historic Preservation and the Tennessee Department of Agriculture

Summer 2009

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Counties Plan Century Farm Recognition Events

Across Tennessee, fair boards and other organizations and agencies are recognizing local Century Farm families with special events each year. These events—receptions, dinners, luncheons, exhibits, and other gatherings—are opportunities to focus on farms that are among the most historic places in each county. In addition to expressing appreciation to farm families, these events also educate the public about working farms and agricultural businesses and how they constantly contribute to our basic economy; maintain rural traditions and skills; and conserve open spaces, water sources, trees, and wildlife across the state.

If your county does not hold a recognition event for Century Farms, consider planning one for later this year or for 2010. To find out how many Century Farms are in your county and to learn about their history, visit the Tennessee Century Farm Web site at <http://www.tncenturyfarms.org>.

This year, fourteen fair boards applied for and received grants from the Tennessee Department of Agriculture to help offset some of the expenses associated with their Century Farms recognition events. These fairs are: Cumberland, Dickson, Dyer, Foothills, Franklin, Greene, Hardin, Hickman, Houston, Lauderdale, Meigs, Putnam, Trousdale, and Williamson.

In addition to fair boards, other organizations that have sponsored local recognition events include Soil Conservation Districts, historical societies, and county extension offices. Contact the Tennessee Century Farms program at the MTSU Center for Historic Preservation (see page 6) for information, brochures, applications, and other materials for a Century Farm recognition event.



Ten of the seventeen Century Farm families in Bedford County attended the spring quarter Historical Society meeting, which recognized each of the Century Farms. From left, front: Sharon Bell (Fox Run Farm); Alpha Philpott (Wayside Farm); Joann Stowers (Stow-Ha-Wa Farm); Winston and Rachael Roberts (Roberts Farm); Dwight Stubblefield (O. D. Stubblefield Farm); Laurie Richardson (J. C. Leming Farm); and Linda Vannatta (Vannatta Farms Inc.).

From left, back: Jean Stimpson (Spring Hill Dairy Farm); Elaine and Stephen Philpott (Wayside Farm); Bryce Brinkley (associated with Roberts Farm); John, Jim, and Mary Knight (Knight Farm); and Bobby and Tracy Vannatta (Vannatta Farms Inc.). (Courtesy Al Simmons)



The Wilson County Fair will host its 16th Century Farm luncheon on August 27. Also, a Century Farm will be featured each night of the fair, and owners will display some of their farm and family objects and memorabilia in the Century Farm Museum in Fiddlers' Grove.

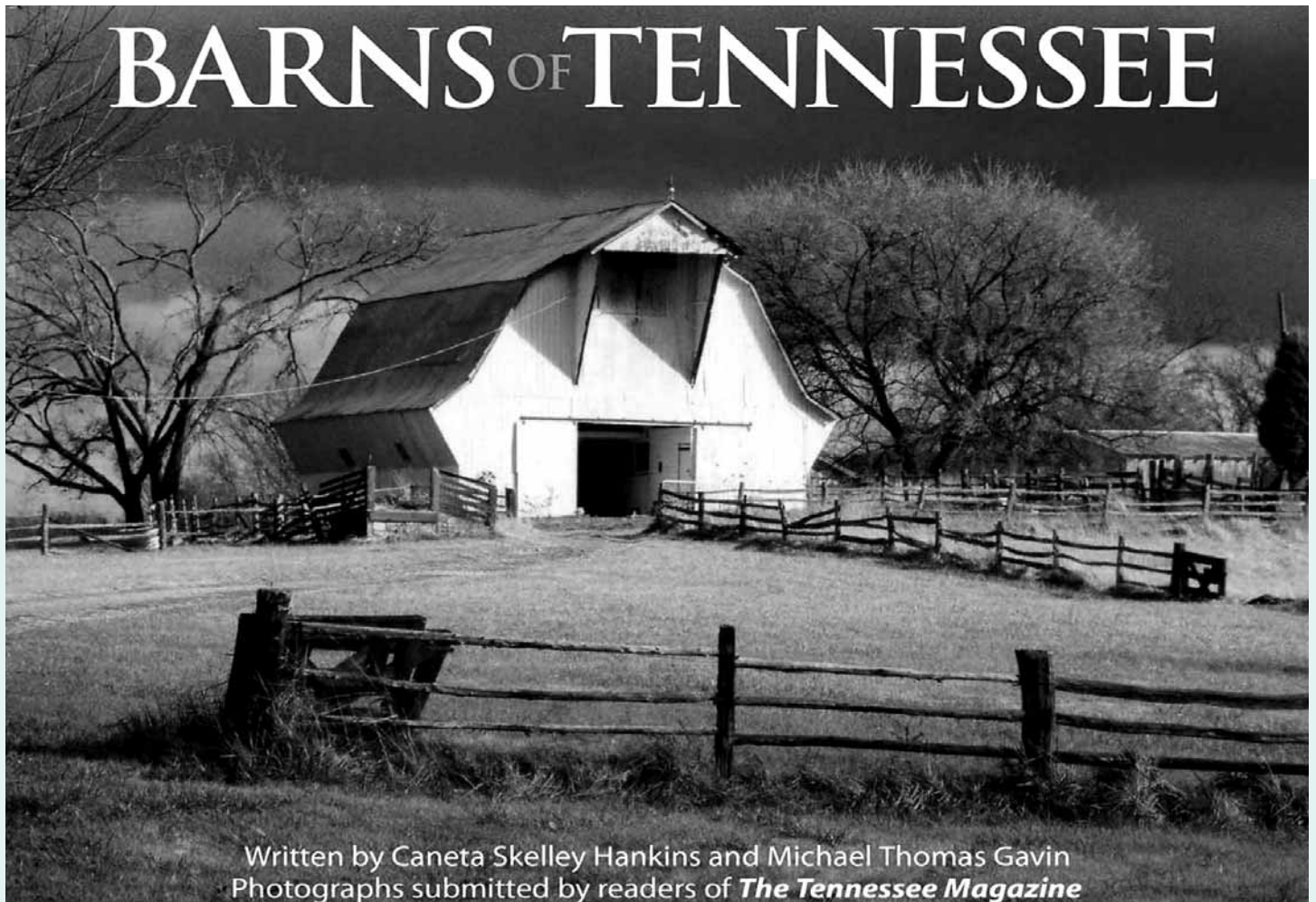
Barns of Tennessee Now Available

In the summer 2007 issue of this newsletter, we invited Century Farmers to submit photos for a forthcoming book on Tennessee's barns. From across the state, readers of the *Tennessee Magazine*, the popular monthly publication of the Tennessee Electric Cooperative Association (TECA) were also invited to send photos of barns. Over the next few months, over 3,500 photographs were submitted, many from Century Farm families. *Barns of Tennessee*, coauthored by Caneta S. Hankins and Michael T. Gavin, designed by the staff of the *Tennessee Magazine* including editor and photographer Robin Conover, and published by

Donning Company Publishers, was released earlier this year. The book, representing every county and containing over 350 photographs, describes types and uses of barns and includes stories provided by the owners. *Barns of Tennessee* is available for \$45 plus \$5 shipping and handling through the TECA office at 710 Spence Lane, Nashville, TN 37224, and on the TECA Web site, www.tnelectric.org. Many thanks to the Century Farm families who contributed photographs (several of which were included) in this significant collection of images of Tennessee barns.



Included in *Barns of Tennessee* (p. 74) is this photograph (reproduced in color in the book) submitted by the Linton family of County Line Century Farm, located in Davidson and Williamson Counties. Loyd Linton, son of barn builder Hooper Linton, stands in front of the 1918 mule barn with Millie the donkey and Sadie the dog.



Written by Caneta Skelley Hankins and Michael Thomas Gavin
Photographs submitted by readers of *The Tennessee Magazine*

For Your Information: Upcoming Events, Workshops, and More

Tennessee Century Farms to be Featured at National Historic Preservation Conference, October 13-17

The National Trust for Historic Preservation will hold its annual conference in Nashville October 13-17. A field session on October 14 will visit the Gentry Century Farm in Williamson County to learn about the history of the farm, established in 1848, and to observe and participate in educational and agritourism activities that are part of the farm's diverse operations today. Century Farms director Caneta Hankins will lead the field session along with Lynne Williams, Century Farms liaison with the Tennessee Department of Agriculture. Hankins will also present an educational session on the Tennessee Century Farms program October 16 at the conference. For more information on the National Trust for Historic Preservation Conference, visit www.PreservationNation.org/conference.



Image courtesy Gentry family

August Workshops to Help You Market Online: Register Now!

Would you like to know more about marketing your farm and its products online? Would you like to build a Web site or make your existing site a better one? Are you confused about Facebook, blogs, and Twitter and wondering whether they are something you could and should use in your farm business? Help is available this August at FREE workshops offered by Pick Tennessee Products and the Tennessee Department of Agriculture. All workshops run from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., and lunch will be provided. The first 30 who register will receive free jump drives for their computers. Dates and places are listed below.

August 12

West Tennessee Research and Education Center
605 Airways Blvd., Jackson, Tennessee

August 13

Ed Jones Auditorium
440 Hogan Rd., Nashville, Tennessee

August 14

Great Smoky Mountain Expo Center
1615 Pavilion Drive, White Pine, Tennessee

To register for a workshop, call the Tennessee Department of Agriculture at (615) 837-5321. For additional questions about the workshops,

call Pamela Bartholomew at (615) 837-5348. You may also find information at www.PICKTnProducts.org.

Farmland Legacy Workshops: Planning Today for Tomorrow's Farms

Three workshops that focus on estate planning for farming families will be held this fall to assist with succession planning and record keeping and to help retiring and transitioning farmers and beginning farmers. How to begin the dialogue with family members, estate planning tools, farm business planning, and retirement planning are some of the topics that will be discussed and included in a workbook provided to all who attend.

Farmland Legacy Workshops: Dates and Locations

October 27, 2009, Jackson

October 29, 2009, Knoxville

November 7, 2009, Murfreesboro

For additional information, contact Alice Rhea at arhea@utk.edu or (865) 603-5164 or Jane Howell Starnes at jhowell7@utk.edu or (865) 974-0414. The Web site at www.farmlandlegacy.org also has details.

This project and the workshops are sponsored by the Tennessee Department of Agriculture, Tennessee Farm Bureau Federation, the Land Trust for Tennessee, USDA Rural Development, the University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture, and USDA-CSREES through the SRRMEC.

Protecting Your Land: Enhanced Tax Incentives

In 2008, Congress enacted significant changes to the federal income tax incentives for conservation agreement donations:

- The deduction a landowner can take for donating a conservation agreement was raised from 30 percent of his/her income in any year to 50 percent.
- Qualified farmers and farm corporations are allowed to deduct up to 100 percent of adjusted gross income.
- The number of years a donor can take these deductions was increased from 6 to 16 years beginning the year the donation is made.

HOWEVER, the law stipulates that the changes will expire December 31, 2009, and the old tax law will again be in effect.

If you or someone you know is considering taking permanent action to ensure that your land stays open and green for your children and grandchildren, talk to your tax advisor and/or contact the Land Trust for Tennessee. The Trust's staff predicts that the expiring tax incentives will make 2009 another record year for protecting farm land, and they would like to start the process with potential landowners earlier rather than later in the year. Doing so will ensure plenty of time to work together through the specific decisions you must make about your land's future uses. If you or anyone you know is considering a conservation agreement regarding land, now is the time to call the Land Trust for Tennessee and set up an initial site visit. To receive additional information about these enhanced tax incentives, please contact the office at (615) 244-5263 or visit the Web site, www.landtrusttn.org. Staff members will gladly answer your questions about the process of conserving your land. You may also visit www.landtrustalliance.org/policy/taxincentives/tax-policy.



A portion of the Webb Brothers Century Farm, founded in 1880 and situated along the scenic Hiwassee River in Polk County, will be protected forever as part of a conservation easement held by the Land Trust for Tennessee. A photo of the farm was included on page 132 of *Barns of Tennessee* (see page 2).

(Courtesy Ingrid Buehler, *Polk County News*)

Congratulations to These New Century Farms!

Please help us keep information about your farm current in our files and on our Web site by letting us know when changes occur. Farms certified after July 1, 2009, will appear in the next newsletter.

The following farms were certified since the winter 2008 newsletter. Though farms may have more than one owner, we list only the first owner of record as supplied on the application because of space limitations.

BG FARM

County: Smith
Owner: Billy Gregory
Date Founded: 1892

BENNETT FARM

County: Carroll
Owner: Robert B. Bennett
Date Founded: 1822

BENTLEY FARM

County: Wilson
Owner: Charlene B. Key
Date Founded: 1886

BUCHANAN FARM

County: Dickson
Owner: Henry H. Buchanan
Date Founded: 1909

CARROLL-RICHARDS FARM

County: Gibson
Owner: James E. Richards
Date Founded: 1886

DKM FARM

County: Cannon
Owner: David L. Parker
Date Founded: 1907

DULL FARM

County: Dickson
Owner: Bobby W. Corlew
Date Founded: 1885

GOOCH FARM

County: Giles
Owner: Alice B. Gooch
Date Founded: 1884

FRED O. MCMAHAN FARM

County: Sevier
Owner: Archie R. McMahan
Date Founded: 1838

GRAVES FARM

County: Union
Owner: Kathleen G. Graves
Date Founded: 1882

GREGORY HILL

County: Smith
Owner: David Gregory
Date Founded: 1842

GRIGGS FARMS LLC

County: Crockett
Owner: Robert Matthew Griggs
Date Founded: 1884

J. D. CAMPBELL FARM

County: Claiborne
Owner: Faye and Bill Lanham
Date Founded: 1821

KENNETH RHEA FARM

County: Greene
Owner: Kenneth Carroll Rhea
Date Founded: 1909

KIDWELL FARM

County: Grainger
Owner: Dale Kidwell
Date Founded: 1900

LEVI TREWHITT FARM

County: Bradley
Owner: William M. McClure
Date Founded: 1865

LEWIS FAMILY FARM I

County: Washington
Owner: Billy Joe Lewis
Date Founded: 1880

LEWIS FAMILY FARM II

County: Washington
Owner: Bill Lewis
Date Founded: 1880

LEWIS FAMILY FARM III

County: Washington
Owner: Steven K. Lewis
Date Founded: 1880

LOCUST HILL FARM

County: Smith
Owner: David Gregory
Date Founded: 1853

MARTIN HOMESTEAD

County: Sumner
Owner: Loretta C. Dye
Date Founded: 1876

MOORE FAMILY FARM

County: Montgomery
Owner: George H. Moore
Date Founded: 1908

OLIVER BROTHERS FARM

County: Weakley
Owner: Terry J. Oliver
Date Founded: 1908

ROBERT THOMPSON FARM

County: Loudon
Owner: Glenda L. Dotson
Date Founded: 1909

ROBERT AND NETTIE PAGE SIMPSON FARM

County: DeKalb
Owner: Thomas E. Simpson
Date Founded: 1824

ROBINSON FARM

County: Gibson
Owner: Charles E. Robinson
Date Founded: 1894

SADDLE CAVE FARM

County: McMinn
Owner: Marion J. Humphreys
Date Founded: 1899

Counties with the Most Century Farms

Wilson - 71

Smith - 51

Greene - 46

McMinn - 39

Robertson - 33

Blount - 32

Claiborne - 30

Montgomery - 28

Obion - 27

Rutherford - 27

The Tennessee Century Farms program, a public service of the Center for Historic Preservation at Middle Tennessee State University, documents, recognizes, interprets, and supports the conservation of working farms that have been in the same family continuously for at least 100 years. The Tennessee Department of Agriculture partners with the program by providing a commemorative sign to each Century Farm family.

Please direct comments and inquiries regarding applications, existing farm files, the Web site, and this newsletter to

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Murfreesboro, TN 37132
chankins@mtsu.edu
(615) 898-2947

Please direct questions about Century Farm signs to

LYNNE WILLIAMS
Tennessee Department of Agriculture
Ellington Agricultural Center, P.O. Box 40627
Nashville, TN 37204
Lynne.Williams@state.tn.us
Fax: (615) 837-5194

Visit the Century Farms Web site at
<http://www.tncenturyfarms.org>

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