

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

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Tennessee's Pioneer Century Farms: From Settlement to Statehood



Clockwise from top left:

Greeting William Bailey Allen Sr. and his daughter, Amelia Allen Hartz, of Allendale Farm, founded in 1796 and located in Montgomery County, is Governor Phil Bredesen, right, and Terry Oliver, deputy commissioner, Tennessee Department of Agriculture. (Courtesy Tennessee Photographic Services)

Dwight Coram, second from left, and his son, Matthew, represent the generations of the Mynatt Farm (Union County) founded in 1779. Governor Phil Bredesen, right, and Terry Oliver, deputy commissioner, Tennessee Department of Agriculture, made the Coram's Pioneer Century Farm presentation at the Farmland Legacy Conference. (Courtesy Tennessee Photographic Services)

Gladestone Farm in Marshall County is among the earliest farms settled in what is now middle Tennessee. Founded in 1783 by Major David Wilson, the land grant farm is owned by descendent Daniel E. Moss, who raises Christmas trees and manages parts of the farm for wildlife habitat.

Located in Knox County, the McBee Farm, dating to 1785, has long been recognized as a significant agricultural site.

Leslie D. Larkins, right, and his wife, Jean, center, and their family are proud of their farming heritage, which began in 1787 in Dickson County.

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Pioneer Farms *continued from front*

In the years that preceded Tennessee's admission to the Union in 1796, many farms were established in what were then the westernmost lands of North Carolina. That at least 43 of these farms have remained in the same family and in continuous agricultural production since those pioneer days is a remarkable achievement. In recognition of the founders and heirs of these historic properties, the Tennessee Century Farms program designates these farms that trace their origins to 1796 and before as **Pioneer Century Farms**.

In connection with the Farmland Legacy Conference, hosted in October by the Tennessee Department of Agriculture, members of several Pioneer Century Farm families attended a luncheon at which they were recognized and honored by Governor Phil Bredesen; Terry Oliver, deputy commissioner of the Tennessee Department of Agriculture; and Caneta Hankins, director of the Tennessee Century Farms program. Governor Bredesen said, "These farms are among Tennessee's most significant rural landscapes and each generation, in its own way and time, has contributed to our prosperity and quality of life." A letter from the governor, along with a certificate and commemorative booklet from the Center for Historic Preservation, were awarded each of the families who attended and mailed to those owners who could not be at the event.

The Farmland Legacy Conference brought together a diverse group including farmers, planners, government officials, and representatives of agencies, organizations, and nonprofits to discuss issues including estate planning, property taxes, conservation easements, and planning techniques that protect farmland while permitting balanced economic growth. The conference was sponsored by the Tennessee Department of Agriculture, the Tennessee Department of Tourism, the Lyndhurst Foundation, the USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service and Rural Development agencies, the Land Trust for Tennessee, the Tennessee Farm Bureau Federation, the Center for Historic Preservation at Middle Tennessee State University, the University of Tennessee Center for Profitable Agriculture, and Cumberland Region Tomorrow. For more information on the conference presentations and proceedings, please visit <http://picktnproducts.state.tn.us/legacy/>.

The Pioneer Century Farm designation will continue to be available to any other family farms founded prior to or in the year 1796 whose owners make application to the Century Farms program. To read about the history of each certified Pioneer Century Farm, go to <http://histpres.mtsu.edu> and click on the Century Farm sign. A few Pioneer Century Farm commemorative booklets are still available from the Center for Historic Preservation upon request.

Your Farm—Keeping It Profitable, Keeping It in the Family



In August, workshops in Knoxville, Nashville, and Jackson addressed specific concerns and options available to women, minorities, disabled, and limited-resource farmers. Sponsored by the USDA Farm Service Agency and the Tennessee Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) program, the workshops featured speakers including representatives from the University of Tennessee Extension Service, the Center for Profitable Agriculture, the Land Trust for Tennessee, and the Tennessee Century Farms program.

Tennessee's Pioneer Century Farms

Established Before or in the Year of 1796

1775 MASENGILL FARM

Sullivan County

1777 ELMWOOD FARM

Greene County

1779 MYNATT FARM

Union County

1780 BEAL FARM

Hawkins County

1782 CAMPBELL ACRES FARM, Hawkins County**1783 DOTY FARM**

Greene County

1783 GLADESTONE FARM

Marshall County

1783 TREATY HILL FARM

Sevier County

1785 CLEVELAND HALL FARM, Davidson County**1785 GILLESPIE FARM**

Sumner County

1785 MCBEE FARM

Knox County

1785 WALLACE FARM

Sumner County

1787 LARKINS FARM

Dickson County

1788 BAILEY FARM

Greene County

1788 CEDAR VIEW FARM

Sullivan County

1789 CLOYDLAND FARM

Wilson County

1789 ROLLING ACRES FARM, Hawkins County**1789 WINDY HILL FARM**

Wilson County

1789 WRIGHT FARM

Johnson County

1790 LANCASTER FARM

Smith County

1790 WAGNER-WORLEY FARM, Johnson County**1791 LONG MEADOW FARM**

Hawkins County

1791 MARI-MANN FARM

Jefferson County

1791 VALLEY BREEZE FARM, Hawkins County**1792 HARTSAW COVE FARM, Overton County****1792 OAK THICKET FARM**

Jefferson County

1792 OLD BRICK FARM

Jefferson County

1792 WOODARD HALL FARM, Robertson County**1793 ARCHIE HATCHER FARM, Sevier County****1793 JAMES F. HATCHER FARM, Sevier County****1793 BROOKSIDE FARM**

Washington County

1793 OAK HAVEN FARM

Sumner County

1794 ANDERSON FARM

Greene County

1794 BRABSON FERRY PLANTATION, Sevier County**1794 HILLCREST FARM**

Trousdale County

1794 RIVER DALE FARM

Cocke County

1795 BRADLEY FARM

Sumner County

1796 ALLENDALE FARM

Montgomery County

1796 BEECH HILL FARM

Williamson County

1796 CIRCLE J FARM

Hawkins County

1796 EASTERLY FARM

Greene County

1796 MASSENGILL FARM

Grainger County

1796 ROCKY FIELD FARM

Greene County

1796 SULLIVAN FARM

Dickson County

Century Farm Film Series Premier

The first film in a series featuring the stories of Century Farms was previewed at the Downtown Heritage Center in Murfreesboro on October 2. *Memories and Music on the McDonald Craig Farm* tells the story of the Perry County farm that began with its purchase by ex-slaves in 1871. The story continues with the contributions of current owner McDonald Craig, a well-known folk musician, and his wife, Rosetta, and their family.

The film also serves as an introduction and explanation of the Century Farms program. Copies of the DVD may be requested, free of charge, by local television stations, agencies, organizations, libraries, and educational institutions that wish to view the 30-minute documentary. Requests may be made to the Center for Historic Preservation (see contact information on p. 6). The series is produced through a partnership between MTSU Audio/Visual Services and the Tennessee Civil War National Heritage Area.



McDonald and Rosetta Craig of Perry County are the current owners of the Craig Century Farm, founded in 1871, and featured in a documentary on Century Farms. Courtesy MTSU Photographic Services



Friends, family, and special guests attended the preview of Music and Memories on the McDonald Craig Farm. A highlight was the performance of Mr. Craig's original composition, "My Home Tennessee," by the Select Choir of Hobgood Elementary School in Murfreesboro under the direction of Mrs. Jane Marsh. Courtesy MTSU Photographic Services

Congratulations to these new Century Farms!

Please help us keep information about your farm current in our files and on the Web site by letting us know when changes occur. Farms certified after December 10, 2008, will appear in the next newsletter.

The listed farms were certified since the spring 2008 newsletter. While farms may have more than one owner, we list only the first contact owner of record, as supplied on the application by the family, because of space limitations.

ALDERSON HOME STEAD FARM

County: Maury
Owner: Judy Ladd Melton
Date Founded: 1873

BLACKMON-PARRISH FARM

County: Madison
Owner: Carol Ann Watson
Date Founded: 1849

BLOODWORTH HOMEPLACE

County: Wilson
Owner: Ann S. Boyd
Date Founded: 1880

BRABSON FERRY PLANTATION

County: Sevier
Owner: Ben D. Brabson
Date Founded: 1794

CARTER FARM

County: Benton
Owner: Barry L. Carter
Date: 1879

CLENDENIN LEGACY FARM

County: Henry
Owner: Katie C. Williams
Date Founded: 1865

COOLEY FARM

County: Roane
Owner: Marlin R. Curnett
Date Founded: 1825

DOUGAN - HALL FARM

County: Madison
Owner: Kathalynn Abrams
Date Founded: 1904

ERNEST YATES FARM

County: Robertson
Owner: Ernest W. Yates
Date Founded: 1906

GAULDIN FARM

County: Dyer
Owner: John E. Gauldin
Date Founded: 1847

GOODE FARM

County: Crockett
Owner: Garner Mack Goode Jr.
Date Founded: 1908

HAMBY FARM

County: Grundy
Owner: James A. Hamby
Date Founded: 1887

HOLDER FARM

County: Trousdale
Owner: Charla N. Holder
Date Founded: 1906

HOLT FARM

County: Gibson
Owner: Wilma W. Holt
Date Founded: 1860

HYDE FARM

County: Lauderdale
Owner: Ralph A. Hyde
Date Founded: 1886

JONES HILL FARM

County: Dyer
Owner: Virginia A. Anderson
Date Founded: 1891

KENTON FARM

County: Wilson
Owner: Richard Kent Dudley
Date Founded: 1891

LANCASTER FARM

County: Smith
Owner: John Williams Rose
Date Founded: 1790

MARKS FARM

County: Montgomery
Owner: Mary A. Marks
Date Founded: 1899

MEADOWS BROTHERS FARM

County: Henderson
Owner: Edward H. Meadows
Date Founded: 1895

MIZE FARM

County: Giles
Owner: Sarah A. Mize
Date Founded: 1830

NEAS MOUNTAIN VIEW FARM

County: Greene
Owner: Jerry A. Neas
Date Founded: 1906

PARIS MANOR

County: Gibson
Owner: Sarah F. Haney
Date Founded: 1899

RHODES FARM

County: Henderson
Owner: Bill Rhodes
Date Founded: 1900

ROACH FARM

County: Grainger
Owner: Martin F. Roach
Date Founded: 1897

RUSSELL FARM

County: White
Owner: Mark R. Russell
Date Founded: 1838

WEBSTER FARM

County: Dyer
Owner: Kenneth R. Webster
Date Founded: 1887

YATES CAVE FARM

County: Robertson
Owner: Sowell J. Yates Jr.
Date Founded: 1906



Century Farmers Honored at Local Events

Recognition of Hickman County's seventeen Century Farms was a new and successful event at the county fair on August 25. The Pruett Farm, founded in 1810, is the oldest certified Century Farm in the county. The generations of the family were represented by Melody, Danny and Ethan Skelton; Margie and Dorris Claude; and Abbie Lampley. Commissioner Ken Givens, Tennessee Department of Agriculture (right), was joined by Hickman County Mayor Steve Gregory (left) in making presentations to the farm families.

Century Farm events were held this year in several counties (including Bedford, Carroll, Giles, Lincoln, Marshall, White, and Wilson) to recognize new and existing Century Farm families and to promote the importance of agriculture and continued farming locally and across the state. If your county has not yet begun this tradition, encourage your fair board, extension office, or historical organization to join together to plan a Century Farms event in 2009. Some monies will again be available from the Tennessee Department of Agriculture to support Century Farm recognition events at fairs. For more information, contact Lynne Williams (see sidebar).

The Tennessee Century Farms Program, a joint effort of the Tennessee Department of Agriculture and the Center for Historic Preservation at Middle Tennessee State University, documents, recognizes, interprets, and supports the conservation of farms that have been in continuous production and owned by the same family for at least 100 years.

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

CANETA HANKINS

Director, Tennessee Century Farms Program
Center for Historic Preservation
Middle Tennessee State University, Box 80
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://histpres.mtsu.edu/>

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Tennessee Century Farms Program
Center for Historic Preservation
Middle Tennessee State University, Box 80
1301 East Main Street
Murfreesboro, TN 37132

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