



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

Winter 2012/2013

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Tennessee Future Farmers of America Archival Project

Across Tennessee, many Century Farm families have generations of association with Future Farmers of America (FFA) county chapters as well as the state and national organization.

The organization had its origins in 1917 when Congress passed the Smith-Hughes Vocational Education Act. The act not only provided funds to states for high school courses in vocational education but also led to the organization of the National Future Farmers of America. On November 20, 1928, representatives attending the National Vocational Agricultural Students from 18 states met in Kansas City and formed the Future Farmers of America organization. Since that time, the FFA has been an important leadership organization that helps prepare students for successful careers in agricultural-related fields.

Since July 2011, the Center for Historic Preservation at Middle Tennessee State University has served as a partner in preserving the historic records of the Tennessee FFA. The project is coordinated by Dr. Kevin Cason, who has a Ph.D. in public history from MTSU. Kevin was the Century Farms intern at the Center for Historic Preservation during the time he was working on his doctorate, and he is largely responsible for creating the Century Farms website.

Under the leadership of the FFA Association and the Tennessee FFA Historic Preservation Project Steering Committee, Cason has organized the growing Tennessee FFA collection and rehoused the items into acid-free boxes, sleeves, and folders.



The FFA archival collection has many pamphlets and flyers that detail the history of the organization.

Kevin has filled 52 archivally safe boxes and 6 flat storage cases. In addition, scrapbooks, photos, and other materials have been scanned and digital copies made of items that are on temporary loan. Cason works on the archival project at the Coffee County Farm Bureau. The work space was graciously donated by Mark McBride, agency manager and former FFA state president.

The connection of FFA and the Tennessee Century Farms program is a close one because many Century Farm families are FFA alumni and current members. One example of this connection is Joe Moore, owner of the Carverdale Century Farm in Jackson County. Joe served as state president of the Tennessee FFA Association from 1953 to 1954 and was awarded the

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Century Farms Certified Since July 31, 2012

Please help us keep information about your farm current in our files and on our website by letting us know when changes occur.

Congratulations to the owners of the following farms, which have been certified in the past six months. While farms may have more than one owner, we list only the first owner of record, as supplied on the application by the family, because of space limitations. Farms certified after December 15, 2012, will be listed in the summer 2013 newsletter.

BAKER-ARNOLD FARM

County: Gibson
Owner: Rosa Arnold Cochran
Date Founded: 1869

ALLEN-RHODES FARM

County: Perry
Owner: Joy A. Rhodes
Date Founded: 1867

CAPLENOR FARM

County: Smith
Owner: William E. Caplenor
Date Founded: 1906

CARRINGTON FARM

County: Henderson
Owner: Russell C. Carrington
Date Founded: 1912

DAVIDSON FARM

County: Gibson
Owner: Reggie D. Davidson
Date Founded: 1896

DICKINSON-LONON FARM

County: Haywood
Owner: Mary D. Lonon
Date Founded: 1900

HARRIS FAMILY FARMS

County: Gibson
Owner: Kenneth L. Harris
Date Founded: 1911

HOOPER HOMESTEAD FARM

County: Cheatham
Owner: Earl Nixon
Date Founded: 1880

JORDAN-MCINTIRE FARM

County: Dickson
Owner: William W. McIntire
Date Founded: 1860

KILZER FARM

County: Smith
Owner: Larry W. Kilzer
Date Founded: 1900

LAFFERTY FARM

County: Decatur
Owner: Eddie L. Smart
Date Founded: 1853

MABRY FARM

County: Jackson
Owner: Gregory D. Mabry
Date Founded: 1887

MARIJAC FARMS

County: Lake
Owner: John F. Fields
Date Founded: 1859

MYRACLE FARM

County: Decatur
Owner: Robert W. Myracle
Date Founded: 1885

OLD HOME PLACE

County: Wilson
Owner: Mildred A. Edwards
Date Founded: 1888

PATTON FARM

County: Wilson
Owner: William L. Patton
Date Founded: 1852

PIGEON ROOST ROAD FARM

County: Smith
Owner: Larry W. Kilzer
Date Founded: 1900

RHODES-CLIFFORD FARM

County: Henderson
Owner: Joy C. Gilliam
Date Founded: 1903

RIDDICK-TURNAGE FARM

County: Crockett
Owner: Margaret J. Hendrix
Date Founded: 1838

ROBINSON GOODMAN FARM

County: Gibson
Owner: Brent A. Cox
Date Founded: 1870

S/V BIG BEND FARM

County: Jefferson
Owner: Carolyn L. Vineyard
Date Founded: 1905

SWEETZ FARM

County: Clay
Owner: Lloyd R. Sweetz
Date Founded: 1885

WISE FARM 1

County: Decatur
Owner: Sarah A. Wise
Date Founded: 1909

WISE FARM 2

County: Decatur
Owner: Stacy D. Wise
Date Founded: 1909

WHITEHURST FARM

County: Haywood
Owner: Helen E. Shaw Tripp
Date Founded: 1829

WILLIAMS-LONON FARM

County: Haywood
Owner: Mary D. Lonon
Date Founded: 1902

WINDY RIDGE FARM

County: Houston
Owner: Michael R. Mobley
Date Founded: 1910

Tennessee Future Farmers of America Archival Project (continued)

National FFA's highest honor in 1955, when he was named Star Farmer of America. In addition to Joe's accomplishments, his father, Donald Moore, was selected as the first state president of the Tennessee FFA in 1928.

Each month, Kevin prepares a newsletter that provides an update about the project and presents some highlights from the collection. For current and past issues of the FFA archival project go to <http://www.tnffa.org> and click on "Association" and then "History and Structure." The Center for Historic Preservation and the Tennessee FFA Association envision several long-term goals for this project including a website, traveling and permanent exhibits, publications, and a research center for agricultural historians, current FFA members, and FFA alumni and their families who want to enjoy browsing this important collection.

If you have information, photos, or documents to contribute to the Tennessee FFA Archival Project,

please contact Mark McBride, chair of the Tennessee FFA Historic Preservation Project Committee, by calling (731) 234-2373 or emailing mmcbride84@aol.com, or contact the FFA Foundation at (931) 372-6050.



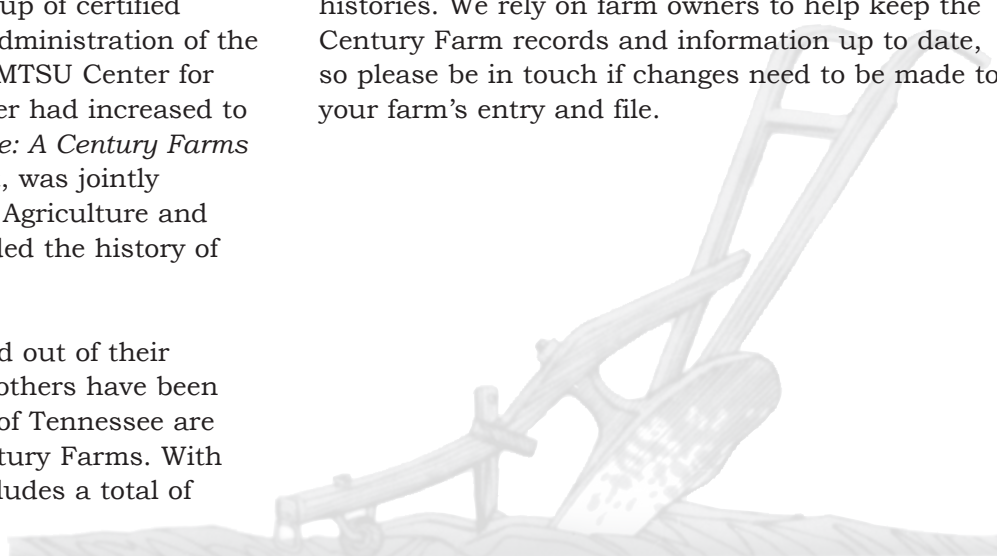
The Moore family, Ann and Joe with Sam, of Carverdale Century Farm in Jackson County, have a longtime association with FFA.

Century Farms Number over 1,500

In 2013, the Century Farms program celebrates thirty-eight (38) years of documenting farms that have been in the same family and in agricultural production for at least 100 years. Begun by the Tennessee Department of Agriculture in 1975, about 600 farms were in the initial group of certified properties. By 1984, when the administration of the program was transferred to the MTSU Center for Historic Preservation, the number had increased to about 700. *Tennessee Agriculture: A Century Farms Perspective*, by Carroll Van West, was jointly published by the Department of Agriculture and the center in 1986, and it included the history of 783 farms.

While some farms have been sold out of their original families over the years, others have been certified. Today, all 95 counties of Tennessee are represented by one or more Century Farms. With this newsletter, the program includes a total of

1,507 farms: 157 are 200 years old, 634 are 150 years old, and 716 have reached the century mark. The program looks forward to receiving applications from farms founded before or in 1913. Visit the website at www.tncenturyfarms.org to read the farm histories. We rely on farm owners to help keep the Century Farm records and information up to date, so please be in touch if changes need to be made to your farm's entry and file.



Cassandra Bennett, a Texas native, is the current graduate assistant at the Center for Historic Preservation, working with the Century Farms program. She is responsible for helping process applications and maintain the website. She received her B.A. in history from Stephen F. Austin State University in 2010 and moved to Murfreesboro in the fall of that year to begin work toward an M.A. in public history at MTSU. She is concentrating on historic preservation, particularly in small towns and rural areas. Her thesis is on Tennessee's small-town movie theaters. This past summer, Cassandra interned in McKenzie, Tennessee (Carroll County), where she worked on an architectural survey of the downtown and drafted a preservation plan for the Park Theatre (1941).



Cassandra Bennett in McKenzie (Carroll County).

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 website, and this newsletter to

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Please direct questions about Century Farm signs to

LYNNE WILLIAMS
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Ellington Agricultural Center, P.O. Box 40627
Nashville, TN 37204
Lynne.Williams@state.tn.us
Fax: (615) 837-5194
(615) 837-5160

Visit the Century Farms website at
www.tncenturyfarms.org.

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