

## **A Letter from the Director (2013)**

Thank you for your interest in the Tennessee Century Farms program. Please read the following letter from Dr. Carroll Van West, Director of the MTSU Center for Historic Preservation.

Greetings:

I started the Center for Historic Preservation's Tennessee Century Farms program in 1985; I am a Tennessee Century Farm owner. But I am a budget realist and in today's age, we can no longer administer the Century Farms program as we have: there is no budget for it.

Therefore, as a cost-effective replacement for the listing of Tennessee Century Farms that is maintained on the website, we have created a "Tennessee Century Farms Program" page on Facebook. We encourage all farm families to join it. If you have an update or change to your farm story, the Facebook page will be the place where you can post it, as well as posting photographs or other images associated with your farm's history. All you have to do is 'like' the page and join in the conversations. The Facebook page is where we will make announcements and post news stories about these invaluable historic farms from all across Tennessee. Encourage all of your Facebook friends and groups to join you on the new Tennessee Century Farms Program page.

For the next two years, we are undertaking a major upgrade of the website and will need time to undertake that effort. If you have updates please post them on the Facebook page. If you wish, you can email updates to the Center at [histpres@mtsu.edu](mailto:histpres@mtsu.edu) or by fax 615-898-5614 or by mail at Tennessee Century Farms Program, P.O. Box 80, MTSU, Murfreesboro, TN 37132, and we will add it to your file. Due to budget constraints, our work in the field to preserve these historic landscapes, and our effort to update the website, Center staff will be able to accept updates by email, fax, or mail only.

Make no mistake: we will continue to encourage and accept applications to the program. There are three deadlines--February 1, June 1, and October 1--and you will hear of your farm's acceptance within six weeks of those deadlines. We also continue to work with farm families on both National Register of Historic Places nominations and working with land conservation programs. The next scheduled project is Sneed Acres Farm in Williamson County. These increased conservation efforts will be the hallmark of the program as it transitions from its first generation into the second generation of service to Tennessee.

Carroll Van West, Director  
Tennessee State Historian