

Search For Missouri Century Farms Underway For 2009

SPRINGFIELD, MO.

The search is on again for Missouri farms that have been in the same family 100 years or more.

These farms will be recognized in the Missouri Century Farm program, which was launched in the bicentennial year of 1976 as the Missouri Centennial Farm program at the University of Missouri-Columbia.

To qualify as a Missouri Century Farm, farms must be owned by the same family for 100 consecutive years or more as of Dec. 31, 2009.

The line of ownership from the original settler or buyer may be through children, grandchildren, siblings, and nephews or nieces, including through marriage or adoption.

The farm must be at least 40 acres of the original land acquisition and make a financial contribution to the overall farm income.

A web site – extension.missouri.edu/century-farm – includes the history of the program, guidelines, application form, and highlights several farms from previous years.

Applicants certified as owners of a 2009 Missouri Century Farm will be recognized by their local University of Missouri Extension office in the county where the farm is located.

Application forms and information are avail-

able through the local MU Extension office or online from March through May 15. A \$40 fee is required to cover the cost of certificates, farm signs, and booklets for approved applicants that apply before April 30.

If applying between May 1 and May 15, the cost increases to \$50.

During the 1976 program, 2,850 Missouri farm owners were recognized as owning a centennial farm.

In 1986 the College of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources and University of Missouri Extension planned a Century Farm updated in which 1,080 more farms were recognized.

Long-term family farm owners who were not able to take part in the 1976 or 1986 events still wanted recognition, so MU Extension planned for annual updates. Since 1987, an additional 3,306 Missouri farms have been recognized.

The Missouri Century Farm program is jointly administered by the MU College of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources, University of Missouri Extension and the Missouri Farm Bureau.

For more information or to request an application, call the nearest MU Extension office or the University of Missouri Century Farms office at 1-800-292-0969. Δ



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