



The State of Montana Centennial Farm and Ranch Program Requirements and Application

Requirements for Consideration of Application

- Proof of continuous ownership by members of the same family beginning with the first owner and concluding with the present owner spanning minimally 100 years. Proof of founding date, commonly through a deed, is necessary. Subsequent deeds are mandatory. The line of ownership from the first family member(s), that person or person you consider the founder(s), may be through spouses, children, grandchildren, brothers, sisters, nephews, nieces, or adopted children.
- Must be a working farm or ranch with a minimum of 160 acres
or if fewer than 160 acres, must have gross yearly sales of at least \$1,000.
- One current owner must be a Montana resident.
- Incomplete applications will not be considered.

Application Process

- Applications will become part of Montana Historical Society Archives and will be available for public research use.
- Answer questions as completely as possible. Submit only one application per farm or ranch.
- Multiple owners of a single property shall designate a primary contact.
- Application fee is \$100.00
- Mail completed application, supporting documentation, and application fee to the Montana Historical Society, Centennial Farm & Ranch Program, 225 North Roberts Street, Helena, Montana 59620-1201. Review and processing will occur by the Montana Historical Society upon receipt of the application.
- In cases where separately owned farms have evolved from the founder's original acreage by family members and meet all other requirements of the program, each individual property may qualify as a Montana Centennial Farm or Ranch. Each owner must complete a separate application for her/his property.

Benefits

Inductees receive:

One framed Montana Centennial Farm and Ranch Program certificate signed by the governor and presented at an annual ceremony.

One high-quality 24-inch by 36-inch metal roadside sign

Ranch history and photos printed in our periodic Centennial Farm & Ranch yearbook (5 copies)

Additional Information

Additional documentation is appreciated, and could include current and historic photographs, deeds, newspaper articles, and written and/or oral family, farm, or ranch histories. Copies of historical photographs (hardcopies or on CD) documenting the progression of the farm or ranch through time are especially welcome. Please submit copies of photographs, deeds or newspaper articles, not originals. The Montana Historical Society reserves the right to use submitted photographs in print and online publications such as brochures and flyers, yearbooks, and social media posts.

Section IV, “Summary List of Owners” allows entry of ownership information in table form.

Addresses or phone number of owners and exact locations of the farm or ranch will not be published.

The Montana Historical Society staff has created several aids to assist you in your research. To access “Guide to Researching Your Montana Property” created by the staff of the State Historic Preservation Office, go to:

<https://mhs.mt.gov/Portals/11/shpo/docs/MontanaResearchGuide.pdf>

A second research aid, compiled by the Montana Historical Society Research Center, “Getting Started on Your Family History,” is located at:

<http://mthistory.pbworks.com/w/page/100314573/Subject%20Guides%3A%20Genealogy%20Guide>

As the above guides explain, required deed documentation (copies must accompany this form) can be researched through your county’s Clerk and Recorder’s Office. County histories are available at your local library. For questions regarding Livestock Brand searches, contact the Montana Historical Society Research Center at: mhslibrary@mt.gov or call (406) 444-268.

If you have additional questions, or would like to have a copy of “A Guide to Researching Your Montana Property” mailed to you, contact Christine Brown Outreach and Interpretation Historian at the Montana Historical Society: (406) 444-1687 or email christine.brown@mt.gov.

APPLICATION

SECTION I: CURRENT OWNERSHIP

The first owner listed should be the person submitting the application; they will be the primary contact for the property and will be the recipient of any Montana Centennial Farm and Ranch Program correspondence. For each owner, provide the following information:

1. Last name: _____ First name: _____ Initial: _____

Address: _____
(route, box, or street) (city) (zip code)

County: _____ Day phone number: _____
(in which you reside)

e-mail (optional): _____

Date your ancestors originally obtained property: _____

Other Current Owners

2. Full name (last name first): _____

Address: _____
(route, box, or street) (city) (zip code)

County: _____ Day phone number: _____
(in which you reside)

3. Full name (last name first): _____

Address: _____
(route, box, or street) (city) (zip code)

County: _____ Day phone number: _____
(in which you reside)

Please provide the same information for any additional owners on the back of this page or a separate page.

SECTION II-A: History of the Land/Farm or Ranch Founders

Property Location (Township, Range Section, County, number of miles and direction from closest town):

Was this property homesteaded?

Name of the first family member to own the land (hereinafter known as the "Founder"):

Name of founder's spouse and children:

Date founder acquired title to the land (**include a copy of legal documentation, such as homestead patent, deed, or will, proving founder's ownership and origination date of the farm or ranch**); See also Section IV, Summary List of Owners, to tabulate associated property transfers and deed information.

Compare the original and current land use of the property?

Land Use	Original	Current
Crop Land	%	%
Development	%	%
Floodplain/Wetland	%	%
Pasture	%	%
Woodland	%	%
Other	%	%

SECTION II-B: Second Owners of the Farm or Ranch

1. Name(s):

2. Relationship to founder:

3. Year this owner acquired the property (Please include information in Section IV, Summary List of Owners)

4. Name of this owner's spouse and children:

SECTION II-C: Family Ownership from the Third Generation to the Current Owners

For each succeeding owner, please provide the same information outlined in Section II Part B. Please ensure clear differentiation for information pertaining to each succeeding generation of landownership (i.e. label the information relating to different owners of the property as Third Owners, Fourth Owners, etc.). Please provide tabular deed and ownership information in Section IV, Summary of List of Owners. This information is important to delineate a clear chain of ownership of the property from the founder to the current owner. Deed submission for each ownership transfer is mandatory.

SECTION III: PRESENT OWNERSHIP

1. Year you acquired land:

2. Your relationship to the founder:

Founder's ethnic or cultural affiliation (e.g., Finnish)

3. Spouse's name and children:

4. Number of generations living on the land today and generational relationships (e.g., "Owner and son's family, Mr. and Mrs. John Jones and their children, Jim born 2004, Joy born 2001).

5. Number of acres presently in agricultural use?

6. Number of acres in agricultural use previously owned by founder:

7. Crops or livestock raised on the farm during the current ownership of the property.

8. Is there a livestock brand associated with the farm or ranch? Please include a representation of the brand and its location on the animal's body.

9. If less than 160 acres in agricultural use, indicate average yearly income from agriculture production.

10. What significant buildings (farmhouse, barn, granary, windmill, etc.) constructed in 1960 or earlier are still standing? Please describe their approximate build dates, original and present-day uses. Enclose digital or hard copy photographs if possible and use additional pages as necessary.

11. Is this property on the National Register of Historic Places or recognized by a local historical organization (if so, give the name of organization)?

12. Who currently works the land? Provide name and relationship (if any) to owner of property.

13. Who is the manager of the farm if other than the owner? Is the owner actively engaged in the everyday operation of the farm?

14. What other significant information about your family, farm, or ranch might you like to provide that is not covered by the questions above? Please share history about events, people, the community, and Montana history associated with your farm or ranch. Describe significant changes in the crops, livestock, brands, and buildings on the farm or ranch over time. Attach additional sheets if necessary.

SECTION IV: SUMMARY LIST OF OWNERS

(1) Founder's Name	Date of Acquisition	Relationship to You	Type of Deed	Deed Book Volume/Page #

(2) Next Owner's Name	Date of Acquisition	Relationship to You	Type of Deed	Deed Book Volume/Page #

3) Next Owner's Name	Date of Acquisition	Relationship to You	Type of Deed	Deed Book Volume/Page #

4) Next Owner's Name	Date of Acquisition	Relationship to You	Type of Deed	Deed Book Volume/Page #

5) Next Owner's Name	Date of Acquisition	Relationship to You	Type of Deed	Deed Book Volume/Page #

Copy and attach additional sheets as necessary. Remember to continue numbering.

INFORMATION FOR CERTIFICATE:

Name of Farm as it will appear on the certificate and signage (e.g., Lazy R Ranch):

If no name is given, registration will occur based on the last name of the present owner.

CERTIFICATION

I declare that the statements made in this application are accurate and correct to the best of my knowledge. Please sign and date.

Signature of current farm/ranch owner

Date

Mail the completed application and supporting documentation, including photographs, to:

**Centennial Farm and Ranch Program
Montana Historical Society
P.O. Box 201201
225 North Roberts Street
MT 59620-1201**

We suggest that you keep a copy of this application and supporting materials for your files. Usually, you will hear from us within four weeks of application receipt.