

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 income 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

For each owner, provide contact information. The primary owner will receive all correspondence, including the certificate and sign. If you are applying as an owner's representative, please include your information under Owner's Representative below.

Primary Owner

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

Mailing Address: _____
(city, state) (zip code)

Farm/Ranch Physical Address: _____
(city) (zip code)

e-mail: _____ Phone: _____

Other Current Owners

2. Full name (last name first): _____

Address: _____
(city, state) (zip code)

Phone number: _____

3. Full name (last name first): _____

Address: _____
(city, state) (zip code)

Phone number: _____

Please provide the same information for any additional owners on a separate page.

Owner's Representative Please send all correspondence to me

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

Mailing Address: _____
(city) (zip code)

e-mail: _____ Phone: _____

Relationship to owner(s): _____

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

Property Location (Township, Range Section, County):

Distance to closest post office:

Name of the first family members to own the land (hereinafter known as the “Founder(s)”):

Founder’s ethnic or cultural background (e.g., Finnish)

Name of founder’s spouse and children:

Was this property homesteaded? Yes or No

Date founder(s) originally settled on the property:

If homesteaded, date founder(s) received title to the land:
(Please include a copy of the original title or federal land entry record.)

Original Land Use

Acres cultivated by the founder(s), if known? Please include increased acreage over time.

Crops raised by the founder(s). Please include changes over time, if known.

Livestock raised by the founder(s). Please include changes over time, if known.

Buildings erected by founder(s). Please list original buildings and if they are still standing.

Important machinery used by founder(s). Please include changes over time, if known.

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

1. Name(s):
2. Relationship to founder(s):
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:

Second Owner Land Use

Acres cultivated by second owner, if known? Please include increased acreage over time.

Crops raised by second owner? Please include changes over time, if known.

Livestock raised by second owner? Please include changes over time, if known.

Buildings erected/demolished by second owner.

Important machinery used by second owner. Please include changes over time, if known.

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: CURRENT OWNERSHIP

1. Year you acquired land:
2. Your relationship to the founder:
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. If less than 160 acres in agricultural use, is the yearly income \$1,000 or more (includes lease income)? Yes or No
7. 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.
8. Is this property on the National Register of Historic Places or recognized by a local historical organization (if so, give the name of organization)? Yes or No

If not, are you interested in listing your property in the National Register of Historic Places?
 Yes or No
9. Who currently works the land? Provide name and relationship (if any) to owner of property.
10. Who is the manager of the farm if other than the owner? Is the owner actively engaged in the everyday operation of the farm?

SECTION IV: OTHER HISTORY

Has it been difficult to keep this farm/ranch in the family for 100 years or more? What factors helped it stay in the family for so long?

What other significant information about your family or farm/ranch might you like to provide that is not covered by the questions above? Please share history about setbacks, successes, hardships, owners' community involvements, disasters, lucky moments, etc. that influenced the growth and development of the farm/ranch. Attach additional sheets if necessary.

SECTION V: PHOTOS

Please include copies of photos of the original founder and subsequent generations, the land, buildings, and other significant farm/ranch life events on separate sheets of paper. Include names/dates associated with each photo.

SECTION VI: 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 AND SIGN:

Name of Farm as it will appear on the certificate and signage (e.g., Lazy R Ranch, Williams Cattle Company, Jurgen Homestead)

If no name is given, registration will occur based on the last name of the present owner. LLC or Corporation designations will not appear on roadside signage unless requested.

CERTIFICATION

I declare that I am the owner or owner's representative and 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 to:

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

Applicants may instead email the application, supporting documents, and electronic photos at the time of submission to Christine Brown at christine.brown@mt.gov. Please include a photo log or list with names and dates associated with each photo. If your combined application materials are larger than 10MB, please share in multiple emails or via Dropbox, Google Drive, etc.

Questions? Call Christine at 406-444-1687.

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.

Thank you so much for your time and interest in the Centennial Farm and Ranch program at MHS!