

1959

Oregon State Department of Agriculture
Salem, Oregon

Please do not release
until Thursday, July 30.

44 Century Farms
Added This Year

Forty-four more Century Farms, including the first one from Tillamook county, have come to light this year in the program sponsored by the Oregon Historical Society and the State Department of Agriculture.

Thomas Vaughan, of the Historical Society, and Frank McKennon, director of agriculture, said these will be added to the 354 discovered in this unique program, initiated last year.

Linn county, runner up last year in farm numbers, tops the 1959 list with 10 Century Farms, including one owned jointly by sisters. Yamhill county is one behind Linn. Marion county, which produced 67 last year, is represented by six this year.

The new group of Century Farm owners--descendants who have stayed continuously with the agricultural pursuits of the farm founder--will be honored in a grand finale at the Oregon State Fair on Tuesday, September 8. At that time Governor Mark O. Hatfield will present the handsome parchment enrolling the farms in the archives of the Oregon Historical Society.

Eleven counties, four less than last year, are included in the current list. All are from western Oregon, which leaves to date the three from Wasco county on last year's honor roll as the sole representative of that vast farming area which was settled later than the western side.

Besides Linn, Yamhill and Marion, the 1959 Centennial Farms are in: Benton and Clackamas counties, one each; Douglas, 4; Jackson, 2; Lane, 2; Polk, 3; Washington, 5; and Tillamook, 1.

All continuous ownership verifications were made by the respective county judges, whose name along with the governor's, the sponsors and the state fair commission chairman will appear on the Century Farm parchment to be awarded at the fair.

(more.....)

Century Farms

The oldest farm this year (Lewis R. Alderman's at Dayton) is 113 years; 12 were founded in 1852, five in 1850 and one or more of the others each year between 1846 and 1859.

Nine of the 43 farms still have some of the original buildings. In Douglas county, Century Farmer Raymond J. Nichols of Winston lives in the original house built in 1853 by his great grandfather.

Strangely enough, the women today outnumber men owners of these historic farm lands. Twenty women, most of them granddaughters but including one great grand niece, are on the list. Eight of the honors go to husband-wife teams.

Most intricate of all claims to teace relationship is that of the Charles S. Mullen farm near Newberg, whose Century Farm was founded in 1852 by the half-brother of his great grandfather. At the other extreme is the Alderman farm on which the sone of the founder lives today.

Not all the farms come down straight from original donation land claims. Even a hundred years ago farmers were buying and selling their lands---but not at today's prices. Mrs. Jessie B. Sewell at Hillsboro has the original deed in which farmers, by their marks, in 1857 transferred 318.95 acres or half of their dona-tion land claim for \$1600 or about \$5 an acre. A year earlier in Marion county the present Arthur McKay Century Farm was started when James McKay paid \$1000, or \$6.25 per acre, for 160 acres of a donation land claim.

A few farms are intact, acreagewise, a few have been divided but once and one has been divided into 30 pieces of land. The smallest Century Farm this year is $4\frac{1}{2}$ acres; the largest, 785 acres.

Following are the owners of 1959 Century Farms:

(more.....)

1959 Century Farms

Benton County - Mrs. D. Ross Barclay, Route 3, Box 598, Corvallis.

Clackamas County - Rex and Clara James, Route 2, Box 305, Molalla.

Douglas County - Chas. Henry Jones, Myrtle Creek; Mrs. Magdalene Nichols, Route 1, Box 7, Riddle; Raymond J. Nichols, Star Route, Box 1, Winston; Bruce Cunningham, Drain.

Jackson County - J. D. And Letha Ross, 1571 Ross Lane, Medford; Margaret Ross Humphreys, 412 Haven Street, Medford.

Lane County - Stephen H. Ford, Route 5, Box 360, Eugene; Mrs. Frona Hills Hack, Route 1, Box 340, Springfield.

Linn County - Yates Sherer, Tangent; Mrs. Elsie Davis Bond, 1834 Fairmount Blvd., Eugene; Mrs. S. V. Barr, Route 1, Box 2862, Sweet Home; Mrs. Mabel J. Reagan, 417 13th Street East, Eugene, and Mrs. Vivian M. Forster, 1555 Laurel Heights, Albany; Loren J. Bond, Route 2, Box 362, Albany; Bertha Lena Watson, Route 1, Shedd; John Lester McFarland, Route 1, Tangent; Mr. and Mrs. John W. Alvin, 2560 S. Santiam Highway, Lebanon; Mrs. Florence N. Harrison, Rural Route, Brownsville; Mrs. Stacy L. Neeley, Route 2, Albany.

Marion County - Mr. and Mrs. Arthur M. McKay, Route 1, Box 387, Woodburn; Arthur W. McKay, Route 1, Box 386, Woodburn; Chas. S. Mullen, Star Route, Box 59, Newberg; Mr. and Mrs. Willard F. Ramp, Route 1, Box 62, Brooks; Laverne R. Norton, Route 2, Box 64, Woodburn; James L. Cooke, Route 1, St. Paul.

Polk County - Verne A. Fox, Route 1, Box 286, Rickreall; Mrs. Florence Allen Ragsdale, Route 1, Box 179, Rickreall; Miss Bertha Catherine Allen, Route 1, Box 179, Rickreall.

Tillamook County - Mrs. Bernice E. Wilkins, Bay City.

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1959 Century Farms

Washington County - Sanford Roy Matteson, Route 1, Box 193, Gaston; Mrs. Jessie B. Sewell, 1st and Lincoln, Hillsboro; Mrs. Juanita D. Wainscott, Route 3, Box 473, Hillsboro; Butler L. Raffety, Route 1, Box 103, Cornelius; F. H. Bowlby, Sr., Route 2, Box 235, Cornelius.

Yamhill County - Keith Lamson, Route 1, Box 364, Willamina; Mrs. Rita Laws, Route 1, Box 247, McMinnville; L. T. Hutt, General Delivery, Yamhill; Mr. and Mrs. O. L. Stahlnecker, Route 3, Box 129, Newberg; Russell Heater, Route 2, Box 312, Newberg; Mrs. Grant Heater, 503 E. Sherman, Newberg; Mrs. Edgar C. Newall, Route 2, Box 109, Newberg; Mr. and Mrs. Lewis R. Alderman, Route 2, Box 197, Dayton; Harold L. & Helen D. Mendenhall, Route 2, Box 79, *Willamina*

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Century Farm Program sponsored by:

Oregon Historical Society
235 S. W. Market Street
Portland 1, Oregon

State Dept. of Agriculture
158 - 12th Street, N.E.
Salem, Oregon