



## WASHINGTON STATE GRANGE

3104 WESTERN AVENUE • SEATTLE, WASHINGTON 98121-1073 • (206) 284-1750

February 26, 1986

Oregon Historical Society  
1230 SW Park  
Portland, OR 97205

Dear Friends:

As you know, the state of Washington is approaching its centennial in 1989. It so happens that the Washington State Grange celebrates its 100th anniversary during the same year. I am one of the staff people on our centennial steering committee.

The Washington Centennial Commission has asked us to look into the idea of special designation for family farms which have remained in the same family for 100 years. I am a resident of Oregon (working in Washington) and am aware that during the 1959 Oregon centennial the century farm project was implemented. We would like to work with our commission to see a similar project in Washington.

First of all, am I correct in assuming that the Oregon Historical Society started the Oregon century farm program and that you still keep it going? If not, could you direct me to the appropriate agency?

Could you supply me with how the project was implemented? What kinds of verification were required for a farm to be listed as a century farm? Was there a registration fee? Were the signs I see at the farms paid for by the farm family? If not, by who? How is the program administered now?

Any information you can supply will be greatly appreciated. We are most anxious that agriculture receives proper recognition during the centennial and perhaps a century farm designation would be an important part of the celebration.

Sincerely,

Dave Howard  
Director of Information

March 13, 1986

Mr. Dave Howard  
Director of Information  
Washington State Grange  
3104 Western Avenue  
Seattle, Washington 98121-1073

Dear Mr. Howard:

Thank you for your letter of February 26 inquiring about the Century Farm program in Oregon. I regret the delay in replying as I have been out of the office for a couple of weeks.

Yes; the Oregon Historical Society, under the direction of Executive Director Thomas Vaughan, started the Century Farm Program in 1959 in connection with our centennial celebration. The program was initially carried out in conjunction with the Oregon State Department of Agriculture, but has been entirely administered by the Historical Society since 1973. We do plan to continue the program as it has been ~~entirely~~ successful and over 900 farms have been honored to date.

I believe that the enclosed forms and general information will give you a good idea as to how the program is administered today. There is no fee for application for a Century Farm; the eligible farms do purchase their own (optional) outside signs for about \$60.00 from a local supplier.

I hope that this information will be adequate and that you will let me know if further information is required. I should perhaps let you know that at one time the Washington State Cattlemen's Association looked into the possibility of carrying out a similar program in Washington but we do not know if their plans have come to fruition.

Sincerely,

Charles F. Wellman  
Coordinator, Century Farm Program