

85 Oregon farm families join coveted Century Farms rolls

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Eighty-five Oregon families whose farms have been worked by the same family for 100 years or more have been included on the roll of Century Farms by the Oregon Historical Society, an honor granted only once every five years.

The total number of farms now designated as Century Farms is about 900, said Thomas Vaughan, executive director of the society.

The program was started in 1958, before the Oregon Centennial in 1959. It is an honor for farmers, who receive a Century Farm sign to display on their property. Presentations of the awards certificates are to be made in ceremonies in the various counties.

To be eligible, a farm has to have been operated continuously in the same family for a century or more. Farms which have been rented out don't qualify, and the applicant must own, live upon and farm the land, or actively manage the farming if he or she lives off the ancestral place.

In addition, the farm must have not less than 10 acres with a gross income from farm uses not less than \$500 annually for three out of the five years immediately preceding the application for designation. Farms in the process of being sold to non-relatives also are ineligible.

"Seldom in American history has the so-called family farm been as threatened by economic and social pressures as it is today," Vaughan said. "The dwindling number of small farms makes those that survive even more precious to the farm family and the community."

Among the 85 to join the list this year were 10 Morrow County farms. Umatilla County was second with nine and Washington County was third with eight new Century Farms. Twenty-four of the state's 36 counties are represented this year.

The Doerfler family of Marion County was among them. Their family farm of about 230 acres in the rolling hills south of Silverton was founded in 1877 by Martin Doerfler, who came to America from Austria in 1867 and lived on another nearby farm until buying the home place 10 years later.

As many of the Doerflers as possible gathered Thursday during their busiest season of the year for a family picture in front of the 1880-era house with the gingerbread designs over the front porch. Four generations showed up,



THE DOERFLER CLAN — Four generations of the Doerfler family of Silverton take time out for a family photo celebrating the Century Farm status of the place Martin Doerfler founded in 1877. From left: Bruce

arriving in pickups, cars, combines and, in the case of the youngest, a kiddie tractor.

David A. Doerfler owns and operates the farm now, with his wife, Rita, and children. They live up the hill from the original place. Doerfler's sister, Shirley Doerfler Duerst, and her husband, John, and their boys live in the old house, which has been enlarged and restored over the years. David and Shirley's mother, Alice Doerfler, also

live nearby.

Wheat and oats were among the crops grown by the farm founder, and still are cultivated by his descendants today. But the emphasis on crops has changed over the years, too.

Doerfler's mainstay is fine fescue, grass seed used for lawns and turf. He still has "a fair amount of wheat" and grows oats for the California horse market. He also cultivates sugar beets for seed under contract with Great

Duerst, Robbie Duerst, Donald Doerfler, David and Rita Doerfler, Shirley Doerfler Duerst, husband John Duerst and dog Queen, in the foreground, Ryan Doerfler, Trevor Duerst and "Grandma" Alice Doerfler.

Western Sugar Co. and started experimenting with a new crop, meadowfoam, last year. From last year's 20 acres of the meadowfoam seed from which oils for cosmetics and specialty products are extracted.

With that amount of diversification, the Doerflers are managing to smooth out the bumps of the recession in agriculture. They've dealt with the same bank, Salem's Ladd and Bush U.S.

National branch, since David Doerfler's grandfather opened an account there decades ago.

Generally, though, Doerfler said, "things are fairly tough. We've been here awhile, so we inherited some ground. But we have bought some, too. So financially, it's tough. We owe the bank, but we pay the bills."

Following is the list of 85 new Century Farms, by county, including the name of the founder, the year founded,

the present owner and the farm's location:

Baker: Matthew K. Fisher, 1879, Orville and Helen Fisher, Haines; John Trimble, 1884, Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Trimble, Hereford; Thomas Boyer, 1882, Mr. and Mrs. Robert C. Nelson, Hereford; James McHurt, 1883, Mr. and Mrs. Harold Rowen, Halfway; Andrew P. Greener, 1877, Bessie Greener, Halfway.

Clackamas: William H. Boring, 1876, Willard and Frances M. Boring, Boring; Eli C. and James A. Suter, 1882, Henry G. Suter, Eagle Creek; Christopher and Johanne Weddeler, 1881, Roy A. and Barbara M. Ledbury, Boring; Peter Healer, 1877, Robert C. Healer, Sherwood; Valentine Lingelbach, 1883, Mrs. Elizabeth Lingelbach, Estacada.

Columbia: Joseph Hall Bennett, 1881, Barbara Bennett Thompson, Warren.

Cooks: Sam Crawford, 1856, Archie W. Russell, North Bend.

Curry: Robert McKenzie, 1874, Scott McKenzie, Port Orford.

Douglas: Robert Cowan, 1848, Dare Kingery, Yoncalia; Jesse C. Clayton, 1848, Kenneth E. Clayton, Umpqua; Martha A. Maupin, 1868, Eugene Fisher, Hiram Weatherly, 1882, Floyd V. Weatherly, Elkton; Ephraim Raymond, 1883, Mr. and Mrs. Durnin L. Swingley, Days Creek.

Gilliam: Giles G. Parman, 1884, Mrs. Margaret Parman Smith (Wright), Fossil; Ralph Froman, 1875, Norman Earl Froman, Condon; Charles L. Lillie, 1882, Mrs. Margaret Pentecost, Mayville.

Grant: Frank McGirr, 1880, Leland F. McGirr, Fox; Wells W. Stone, 1882, Jay E. McKern, Mt. Vernon.

Jackson: David Nelson Birdseye, 1852, Glenn C. Birdseye, Gold Hill; Nathaniel D. Fitzgerald, 1882, Mr. and Mrs. Jerome W. Fitzgerald, Gold Hill; Stephen M. Nealon, 1883, John L. Nealon, Central Point.

Jefferson: Edward G. Bolter, 1879, Edward Bolter, Madras.

Klamath: Elia Riggs, 1882, George M. Ager, Klamath Falls; Silas Wright Kilgore, 1876, Mrs. Silas Warren Kilgore, Bonanza; David Campbell, 1885, Mr. and Mrs. Charles D. Cheyne, Bonanza.

Lake: Samuel G. Corum, 1881, Lawrence and Marjorie Iverson, Silver Lake; Peter Withers, 1871, Alan G. Withers, Paisley.

Lane: Franklin Fayette Deming, 1883, Euleta D. Allison, Elmira; James Merrill McDole, 1881, James R. McDole, Cottage Grove.

Linn: Thomas J. Hennes, 1864, Clare D. Hennes, Lyons; Samuel T. Crooks, 1877, Leslie Hoefler, Albany; Thomas Fleming Smith, 1875, Mr. and Mrs. Wayne H. Smith, Halsey; Allen Gilkey, 1881, Roy and Marian Gobar, Scio; Henry Davidson, 1852, Jeffrey H. Davidson, Halsey; Thurston Davidson, 1852, Robert and Phyllis Davidson, Shedd.

Malheur: George W. Duncan, 1880, Mr. and Mrs. Donald Oakes, Ironside; Isaac Hugh Adams, 1881, Ernest E. Adams, Vale.

Marion: Martin Doerfler, 1877, Mr. and Mrs. David A. Doerfler, Silverton; Asa B. Simmons, 1866, Mr. and Mrs. Robert L. Simmons, Silverton; Dr. Benjamin Davenport, 1851, Robert L. Riches, Silverton; Jesse Herschel Hadley, 1871, Dennis Hadley, Silverton; Peter Goodknecht, 1881, Robert L. Riches, Silverton.

Morrow: Menzo Alfred Olden, 1884, Alvin McCabe, Ione; Albert Wright, 1873, Orlan Albert Wright, Heppner; Paul Rielmann, 1883, Wayne and Harold Rielmann, Ione; Michael Kenny, 1883, William and Kathryn Healy, Heppner; Anson E. Wright, 1881, Mrs. Mildred Wright, Heppner; Milfin Jay Devin, 1884, Marilyn Kirk Robinson, Heppner; Jeremiah Brosnan, 1875, Jerry Brosnan, Heppner; Jesse Hamer, 1873, Raymond French, Heppner; Andrew S. Carlson, 1883, Louis A. Carlson, Ione; John Lindsay Kincaid, 1884, Mr. and Mrs. Lindsay J. Kincaid, Ione.

Multnomah: Euphemia Butler, 1878, Mr. and Mrs. Ralph N. Clinton, Gresham; Andreas Graf, 1881, Juenita Graf, Corbett.

Polk: Noah F. Gregg, 1884, Mrs. Alda Scharf, Astoria; Mahlon Guy, 1875, Edward Guy, Dallas.

Sherman: John C. Kaseberg, 1882, Paulen W. Kaseberg, Wasco.

Tillamook: Samuel Hardy Rock, 1876, Wilford Rock, Cloverdale; John Marshall Alley, 1882, Franklin E. Knight, Nehalem.

Umatilla: Henry Whitaker, 1879, Mr. and Mrs. James W. Whitaker, Pilot Rock; Oro, Frank, Wade and William Holdman, 1882, Benjamin F. Holdman, Pendleton; John A. Davis, 1880, Mrs. Mary Lu Davis Johnson, Milton-Freewater; William P. Temple, 1884, Robert Temple Cresswell, Pendleton; Enoch Demaris, 1884, Mr. and Mrs. Mervil C. Demaris Sr., Milton-Freewater; Francis F. Roumagoux, 1885, James E. and Marie E. Nelson, Pilot Rock; William H.H. Scott, 1872, Joseph Jay Scott, Hermiston; John Lynch, 1876, Edward M. Lynch, Milton-Freewater; Claus H. Rosenberg, 1882, James M. Rosenberg, Pendleton.

Union: James Hutchinson, 1865, Jean and Lowell Hutchinson, Union; Merrell C. Jasper, 1868, Edna and John T. Jones, Cove; Pharris Wade, 1883, Dick Hibbard, Imbler.

Walla: Lorenzo Bacon, 1884, Spencer Bacon, Enterprise; John W. Hayes, 1880, Kirk D. Hayes, Joseph. **Washington:** Swanton S. Bateman, 1885, Donald R. Bateman, Gales Creek; James Pisarius Lilly, 1884, Echo Lilly Larson, Gales Creek; John Marshall Simpson, 1878, Roife M. Simpson, Corneliuss; George E. Zimmerman, 1883, Mr. and Mrs. Donald J. Logan, Hillsboro; Alyssa Jackson, 1878, Harold C. Dersham, Corneliuss; Hulder J. Demmin, 1884, Oscar and Alda L. Mulhy, Corneliuss; James N. Shearer, 1883, Mr. and Mrs. John K. Forsberg, Forest Grove; Peter Evers, 1880, Eugene Evers, Forest Grove.

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