



Argus photo by Pat Kliever

Old operations like the Merrill Kneeland farm on Dick Road north of West Union Road may be eligible for a special designation.

*Applications due by May 1 . . .*

## Century Farm deadline near

PORTLAND—May 1 is the deadline for eligible owners to apply for Century Farm awards that have been granted by the Oregon Historical Society every five years since 1973.

The program to designate farms that have been worked by the same family for 100 years or more was begun by the society in 1958 on the eve of Oregon's Centennial Celebration in 1959. To date, more than 800 farms have been so designated.

"Seldom in American history has the so-called family farm been as threatened by economic and social pressures as it is today. The dwindling

number of small farms makes those that survive even more precious to the farm family and the community," said Thomas Vaughan, executive director of the Oregon Historical Society.

"WE WANT to encourage those who may be eligible for this coveted Century Farm Award to come forward proudly and be recognized. The preservation of historic properties is one of the responsibilities of our society, and the first requirement is to know where those treasures lie."

To be eligible for the award, a farm must have been operated con-

tinuously in the same family for a century or more (1885). If the farm ever has been rented out, it will not qualify. The award applicant must own the farm, live on and farm the land, or actively manage the farming if living away from the ancestral place. The line of ownership from the original settler or buyer may pass through children, brothers, sisters, nephews, or nieces. Adopted children will be recognized equally.

**THE FARM** must have not less than 10 acres with a gross income from farm uses not less than \$500 per year for three out of the five years im-

mediately preceding application for Century Farm honors. Any farm in the process of being sold to a non-relative of the owner is ineligible.

The Oregon Historical Society works with county historical societies and other interested groups to arrange the presentations of the awards, usually at county fairs, according to Elizabeth Buehler, OHS field historian and coordinator for the project.

Application must be made on blanks available from the Oregon Historical Society, 1230 S.W. Park Ave., Portland 97205. (Phone 222-1741).