

OREGON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

File

July 7, 2000

Hon. Mark O. Hatfield
920 SW Sixth Avenue, Suite 1400
Portland, OR 97204

Dear Mark,

During the past year our **Century Farm & Ranch Program** has gone through some significant and stimulating changes. These improvements started with a simple name change, adding the word "Ranch" in recognition of this crucial part of Oregon's agricultural community. This change created an opportunity for new designs for our certificates and road signs, so modern and colorful graphics now reflect the two designations. In an effort to involve the agricultural community to a greater degree, a special Advisory Committee has been formed with representatives from the Oregon Department of Agriculture, OSU Extension Service, and Oregon Farm Bureau. Quite simply, the program spawned during the Statehood Centennial celebration is flourishing.

The program, initially sponsored jointly with the Department of Agriculture, honors family farmers and ranchers who have worked the land for at least 100 years. In fact, the program started in the same year you were elected Governor (1958). The enclosed guidelines and application materials will provide some useful background. Rick Read, Field Services Coordinator, manages the Century Farm & Ranch Program.

Last year we revived the tradition of presenting the certificates during a special recognition ceremony at the Oregon State Fair. Since you participated in these ceremonies while Governor, and currently serve on the OHS Board of Directors, I would like to personally invite you to present the certificates on Saturday, September 2 at 5:00P.M. A special reception, including past honorees, will follow the ceremony. As we start the new century—and a new millennium—we want to highlight the importance of Oregon's agricultural heritage. I sincerely hope you will consider this invitation.

Yours truly,

Chet Orloff
Executive Director