Oklahoma Historical Society
*State Historic Preservation Office*

# Oklahoma Centennial Farm & Ranch Application

To qualify as a centennial farm or ranch, your property must meet the following criteria:

A. Must have been occupied by a member of your family for at least 100 years
B. Must be a working farm or ranch with a minimum of 40 acres
C. Must have average gross yearly sales of at least $1,000
D. Must be operated, lived on, or leased out by a family member

Is this application being prepared as a surprise for the owner(s)? ◯ Yes ◯ No

If yes, please include contact information for preparer on page 4 of this application.

## Current Ownership Information

If there are multiple owners, please use the continuation sheet.

1. Name(s) of owner(s):

   If trust or business name, name of contact:

   Mailing address (include city/state/zip):

   Phone number: Alt. Phone Number:

   Email address:

## Property Information

2. In what county is your property located?

3. Name of property to appear on your certificate:

4. The property is a: ◯ Farm ◯ Ranch
   This option is for determining which certificate and sign, if ordered, you will receive. There is no farm and ranch option.

5. Farm/ranch address (if different from owner address; include city/town name if no address available)

6. What is the legal description of the original property (Section, Township, Range) and how many acres did it include?

7. What are the major crops or products of your property, currently and historically?

8. Do you live on the property? ◯ Yes ◯ No

9. Do you lease out the property/land? ◯ Yes ◯ No

10. Name of the person who works the property, if not yourself:

11. What is the legal description of the current property (Section, Township, Range) and how many acres does it now include? Use continuation sheet, if necessary.

12. In what year did a member of your family originally occupy the property?

13. How did your original family member acquire the property (allotment/homestead/purchase)?

14. In which land opening was your property acquired, if applicable?

15. List all family members, from the original to the present, who have occupied your property. Use continuation sheet, if necessary.

| Name | Relationship to Present Owner | Years of Ownership |
|---|---|---|

16. Provide copies of documents that contain date of occupation, name of claimant, and legal description of claim from original owner to present owner. Check documents you have attached.

    Note: if using an abstract, only include the pages that show transfer between family members included in question #15 to prove continuity of ownership. Do not send the entire abstract.

- ☐ Abstracts
- ☐ Deeds
- ☐ Federal Tract Book Information
- ☐ Homestead Applications
- ☐ Patents
- ☐ Records of Indian Agencies
- ☐ Titles
- Other:

17. Briefly summarize one or two interesting stories about your family or property. Please see the included questionnaire for ideas. Use additional pages, if necessary.

**The following two questions are for research into settlement patterns in Oklahoma and are optional.**

18. What is the ethnicity of the original family member to own this property (select one or more)?

- ☐ American Indian
- ☐ White
- ☐ Black
- ☐ Hispanic/Latino
- Other:

19. What is the nationality of the original family member who own this property (Ex. German, Czech, etc.)

## Statement of Ownership

I declare that the statements made in this application are accurate and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Signature

Date

Printed Name

Relationship to Current Owner(s)

## Historic Structures Award

If your property is accepted as an Oklahoma centennial farm or ranch, you may also qualify for a special Historic Structures Award. To be eligible for the award, your property must have at least four standing buildings (e.g., house, granary, barn, chicken coop, etc.) or structures (windmill, corral, ditch, etc.) that are more than 50 years of age and have not been significantly altered.

A Historic Preservation Resource Identification Form must be completed for each structure or building and photographs must be provided as detailed in the instructions accompanying the form. The form and instructions can be obtained at okhistory.org/shpo/farmandranch, by emailing shea.otley@history.ok.gov, or by calling 405-522-4485.

## Museum and Online Use of Your Family's Stories and Photographs

Indicate below whether the Oklahoma Historical Society (OHS) has your permission to share your family's stories and photographs in its exhibit, on the OHS website, or in OHS publications. No personal information such as address or phone number will be included in any museum exhibit, website, or publication.
**Do you give permission for OHS to share:**

Included family stories? ◯ Yes ◯ No

Included family photographs? ◯ Yes ◯ No

**Would you like to receive the OK | Preservation Advocate e-newsletter?** ◯ Yes ◯ No
(Must provide an email address on first page to receive e-newsletters.)

**To what newspaper should a press release be issued? (**Write none or N/A if you do **not** want one issued.)

Newspapers often contact us for additional information for press releases on Centennial Farm & Ranch properties. **Would you like us to provide them with your contact information?** ◯ Yes ◯ No

## Preparer Information (if for a surprise application)

Name of preparer and relationship to owner:

Mailing address (include city/state/zip):

Phone: Alternate phone:

Email:

Would you like an acceptance letter/certificate/sign sent to you? ◯ Yes ◯ No

**Return application and $50 application fee (made payable to the Oklahoma Historical Society) to:**

**State Historic Preservation Office**
**Oklahoma Historical Society**
**800 Nazih Zuhdi Drive**
**Oklahoma City, OK 73105**

## Continuation Sheet for Additional Information

# Centennial Farm & Ranch Program Questionnaire

In order to further the Oklahoma Historical Society mission to collect, preserve, and share the history and culture of the state of Oklahoma and its people, this questionnaire has been created to share a family's histories and stories. This questionnaire is optional and will have no effect on your acceptance into the Oklahoma Centennial Farm & Ranch Program; however, the State Historic Preservation Office and the Oklahoma Historical Society are interested in collecting as much information as possible about the lives of the farm and ranch families who have played such a vital role in Oklahoma's development. We thank you in advance for your time and for sharing your stories. If you need additional space, please use the continuation sheet.

## The First Years

1. Where did your ancestor live before coming to present-day Oklahoma?

2. What was their daily life like during the first years on the land?

3. How did your family survive during the first years? What foods did they eat? How did they deal with extreme weather?

4. What were the first structures built on the property, and, if known, in what order were they built? (Was the first structure a barn instead of a house, a windmill instead of a barn, etc?)

5. What crops and animals were raised?  Were there any crops attempted that failed to thrive?

6. Did your ancestors supplement their farm income through any other business activity?

7. What did your family do for entertainment?

8. How far was your family from town?  How often did they go into town and what did they do there?

9. When was the first local school built? What was the school term?

10. How did the women survive and maintain the farm when the men were away on long trips?

11. How many surviving children were there during the first years?

12. What were some of the dangers or stories you heard regarding childbirth during the first years?

13. Was there ever a dispute over land between your ancestor and a neighbor and how was it resolved?

14. How did your family acquire the property?

## Historic Moments

15. How did the Great Depression of the 1930s impact your family?

16. Do you know how your family kept their land during the Depression while others in the area did not?

17. Did your family participate in home front efforts during wartime? If so, how?

18. Did any of your family members serve in the military during wartime, and if so, how did the women survive and maintain the farms while they were gone?

## Family Firsts

19. When did the family buy their first tractor? What kind?

20. When did the family buy its first car? What kind?

21. When did the family first acquire electricity?

22. When did the family first acquire telephone service?

23. When did the family first acquire indoor plumbing?

## Recent Times

24. Do you irrigate your farmland, and, if so, when did you start? If not, was it ever irrigated? When, and why did you stop?

25. What soil conservation measures have been used on your farm?

26. What has been the single biggest change in farming that you have seen in your lifetime?

# Family History and Genealogy Questionnaire

The State Historic Preservation Office has initiated a project mapping the settlement patterns of our Oklahoma Centennial Farm & Ranch Program families. The goal is to document the communities developed by groups as they settled across the state, and identify the histories associated with each. If you would like to share your family's history, please complete this questionnaire.

1. What is the name of the original member of your family to own the property? Where were they born?

   a. What were their parents' names, and where were they born?

   b. What was the name of the spouse of the original family member, and where were they born (if applicable)?

   c. What were the spouse's parents' names, and where were they born?

2. How did they travel to Oklahoma (wagon, train, horse)?

a. From where did they travel?

3. In what locations (besides Oklahoma and their places of birth) did the original family members live?

4. Did other members of the family move to Oklahoma with them?

a. If so, which other family members moved to Oklahoma (brothers, aunts, grandparents)?

b. When did they move?

5. Of what ancestry does your family consider itself to be (Czech, Russian, German, American Indian, etc.)? List all if more than one.

# Questionnaire Continuation Sheet for Additional Information