



CENTURY FARM

Honoring the Enduring Spirit of Agriculture and Virginia's Farm Families

Application Guidelines

Background

As established by § 3.2-105 of the Code of Virginia in 1997, the Virginia Century Farm Program recognizes and honors those farms that have been in operation for at least 100 consecutive years and the generations of Virginia farm families whose diligent and dedicated efforts have maintained these farms, provided nourishment to their fellow citizens, and contributed so greatly to the economy of the Commonwealth. The program is administered through the Office of Farmland Preservation located in the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (VDACS).

Successful applicants receive a distinctive certificate signed by the Governor of Virginia and the Commissioner of VDACS and a metal outdoor-suitable sign identifying the historical Century Farm. In addition, the name of the farm and its owners is entered into the official listing of Virginia Century Farms that is maintained by VDACS and can be found on the department's webpage.

NOTE: Prior to July 1, 2016, at the discretion of the Commissioner of the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, a farm was eligible to be a Century Farm if it did not gross over \$2,500 annually in the sale of farm products but was used for a bona fide silvicultural purpose (growing, tending, or protecting trees for the purpose of eventually producing income or financial benefit). As of July 1, 2016, this silviculture option for the Century Farm program is replaced by the Virginia Century Forest program.

The purpose of the Virginia Century Forest program is to honor those forest landowners whose property has been in the same family for 100 years or more and includes at least 20 contiguous acres of managed forest. To be eligible for recognition under the Century Forest program, a property must: (i) have been owned by the same family for at least 100 consecutive years; (ii) be lived on or actively managed by a descendant of the original owners; and (iii) have a documented history of timber harvest or forest management activities.

Century Farm applicants who no longer qualify as a Century Farm may now qualify for the Century Forest program. Previous Century Farm recipients may also qualify for the Century Forest program. For more information, please contact the Virginia Department of Forestry at: CenturyForests@dof.virginia.gov

Qualifications

1. To be eligible for the Virginia Century Farm program, a farm must:
 - have been owned by the same family for at least 100 consecutive years;
 - be lived on or actually farmed by a descendent of the original owner; and
 - gross over \$2,500 annually from the sale of farm products.
2. Applications must be submitted on the forms provided by the Century Farm Program with all questions completed. Questions in the Historical Information Section are optional but encouraged. Copies of

historical and current photographs of the farm and family are encouraged, but not required. All information, including photos, will be kept by the Office of Farmland Preservation for future reference.

Please note: No materials or photos will be returned to you. All submissions become property of VDACS. By submitting this registration, you hereby consent to VDACS use of any material submitted for promotional and/or educational purposes. Please note that all information provided to VDACS may be subject to release pursuant to the Virginia Freedom of Information Act.

3. Applications must be signed and certified by a Notary Public.

Fees

There is no application fee to apply as a Virginia Century Farm. Approved Century Farms receive one free double-sided 17' x 11" aluminum sign suitable for outdoor display. Additional or replacement signs are available for a fee of \$25.00, which includes shipping costs. Please make checks payable to the Treasurer of Virginia.

Where to Send Completed Applications

Send the completed application (including any optional information you would like to provide) to:

Virginia Century Farm Program
Office of Farmland Preservation
Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services
102 Governor Street
Richmond, VA 23219

Review Process and Notification

All applications are checked for completeness and reviewed for eligibility by the Office of Farmland Preservation. The approval process typically takes about one month to complete.

What do Successful Century Farm Applicants Receive?

In recognition of their designation as a Virginia Century Farm, families will receive a certificate signed by the Governor and the Commissioner of the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (suitable for framing), and a 17" long x 11" wide double-side aluminum sign with the Virginia Century Farm logo on a white background appropriate for outdoor display. In addition, the name of the farm and its owners will be entered into the official listing of Virginia Century Farms that is maintained by VDACS and can be found on the department's webpage here: <http://www.vdacs.virginia.gov/conservation-and-environmental-virginia-century-farms.shtml>

Are There Benefits to Becoming a Virginia Century Farm?

The Virginia Century Farm program is strictly a recognition program. While there are no tax incentives or additional legal protections for being a part of the program, you can be proud of your family's agricultural heritage when you display your certificate and sign.

There are No Buildings On My Farm. Can We Still be a Virginia Century Farm?

Yes, if all requirements are met, the fact that no buildings remain does not exclude the farm from becoming a Virginia Century Farm.

Still Have Questions About the Virginia Century Farm Program?

Contact Working Lands Preservation conservation@dof.virginia.gov or Rachel Meyers, Manager Office of Agriculture and Forestry Development Rachel.meyers@vdacs.virginia.gov



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Application Form

Current Owner(s) Information

- Name of Property Owner(s):
 Mr. Mrs. Ms. Mr. & Mrs. Dr. _____
 Mr. Mrs. Ms. Mr. & Mrs. Dr. _____
 Mr. Mrs. Ms. Mr. & Mrs. Dr. _____
- Farm name (this is the name used in all publicity and marketing, and on the certificate you receive):

- Name and mailing address where you would like the sign to be sent:

City/ State/ Zip: _____
- Telephone: _____ E-mail address: _____

Applicant Information

- Applicant name (if different than property owner(s)): _____
- Relationship of applicant to property owner: _____
- Mailing address of applicant: _____
City/ State/ Zip: _____
- Applicant telephone: _____ E-mail address: _____

Location of Farm

- County: _____
- Tax parcel numbers (Listed on your local property tax bill): _____

3. Address or physical location of the farm subject of this application (if different than owner address):

4. Please attach a map or drawing (can be approximate) showing the location of the farm in your county. A photocopy of a map noting the farm's location is fine.

Eligibility Information

In order to be eligible as a Virginia Century Farm, questions 1 and 3 must be yes and either 2A or 2B must be yes.

1. **Has the farm been owned by the same family for at least 100 consecutive years** Yes No

2. **A. Is the farm lived on by a descendant of the original owner?** Yes No

Name of the descendant of the original owner who currently lives on the property:

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

2. **B. Is the farm property farmed by a descendant of the original owner?** Yes No

Name of the descendant of the original owner who currently farms the property:


Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

3. **Does the farm gross over \$2,500 annually in the sale of farm products?** Yes No

Wording for Certificate of Recognition

Please fill in as you would like the family name and farm name to appear on the Certificate of Recognition:

 <p>CENTURY FARM</p>
<p>It is fitting that we formally recognize on this day <i>(to be added)</i></p> <p>The (Fill in last or family name) _____ Family/Families</p> <p>for having owned (Fill in name of farm) _____ for at least one hundred consecutive years.</p>



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Authorization /Notary

I (We), _____ state that the above statements are true and correct with regard to the land noted. Furthermore, I (we) grant the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services permission to use any material submitted in or with this application, in any printed material, media presentation, or other information prepared for public dissemination.

Signature of Applicant(s)

NOTARY PUBLIC

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA, County/City of _____, to wit:

Subscribed and sworn to before me this _____ day of _____, _____.

_____ My commission expires: _____
(Signature of Notary)



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Historical Information Form (optional)

Completion of the following information is optional. Please answer as you wish – we are interested in learning of your family's farming legacy.

1. Name of the first family member(s) to own the land (the founder):

2. Date founder purchased or acquired this farm: _____
3. Place founder was from originally: _____
4. How many acres were included in original farm? _____
5. How many acres are included today in the farm? _____
6. How many acres are in agricultural use today? _____
7. Relationship of current landowner to original owner? _____
8. How was the land used by the original owners? (crops grown, livestock raised, timber production, etc.):
9. How did the crops / livestock / use of farm change over the years?
10. What crops / livestock are raised on the farm today?
11. Pertinent or interesting information regarding the founder and any subsequent owner, as well as any contributions the farm may have made to agriculture (provide on separate sheet).
12. Are there any of the original or historic structures (including homes) remaining on the farm? If yes, please indicate what they are and if they are still in use (provide on separate sheet).
13. **Please also submit historical and current photos of the property and family, if available.** Digital format photos (at highest resolution [300 dpi]) are particularly desirable, so that they may be used in publications, the program's database or the web site. Submitted information, including photos, will be kept on file with the Office of Farmland Preservation for future reference. Please send digital photos included with your application to rachel.meyers@vdacs.virginia.gov