

Do you have a century farm?

LANCASTER — The Century Farms Program, administered by the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture will be continued through this year.

The Century Farms Program is aimed at recognizing the efforts of

Pennsylvania's farm families who have preserved the traditions and the rural heritage of the pioneer farm.

Pennsylvania's pioneer farmers preserved through all kinds of difficulties. The hardships of

farming and settlement were offset somewhat by compensations of farm life. Certain virtues and ideals were developed. . . thrift, close family and community life, cooperation, reverence for the Creator, self-reliance and a love of

liberty.

Over 800 farms from 63 counties have been certified as Century Farms in the first six years of the program (74 in Lancaster County), but the Agriculture Department estimates at least 2,000 more farms are eligible for certification. To be eligible for certification as

a Pennsylvania Century Farm, a farm must have been owned by the same family for the last 100 consecutive years, and a family member must currently reside on the land. In addition, the farm must consist of ten or more acres of the original holdings or gross at least \$1,000 a year from the sale of agricultural products.

The Century Farms Program was initiated as part of the nation's bicentennial observance in 1976, but is being continued for its value in promoting the ideals of the family farm and the importance of farming to Pennsylvania's economy. Completed application forms will be held in the State Archives for use by future historians. They will also be recognized at the Annual Agricultural-Industry Banquet.

The application forms are available by writing Century Farms Program, Penn State Extension Service, 1383 Arcadia Road, Room 1, Lancaster, PA 17601 or by calling 717-394-6851. They should be returned by October 26, 1984.

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