



Illinois Bicentennial Farms Program

The Bicentennial Farm Program was established to honor the generations of farmers who have worked to maintain family farms in Illinois. Each Bicentennial Farm designee is a link to America's heritage and a reminder that the family farm remains a viable entity in today's agriculture.

The Illinois Department of Agriculture administers the Bicentennial Farms Program. This program inception in 2016 through the 99th Illinois General Assembly.

To qualify as a Bicentennial Farm, an agricultural property must have been owned by a straight or collateral line of descendants of the original owner for at least 200 years. Applicants must complete the application and verification forms found on the following pages. These forms request information regarding the present owner and location of the farm, a listing of ancestral owners and third-party verification of records proving lineal or collateral descent. A recognized title searcher, such as an abstractor, an attorney or a recorder of deeds, can verify lineal descent.

While completion of the application and verification forms are mandatory, completion of the original owner information sheet found on the last page is optional.

Applicants meeting all requirements of the program are notified by mail. The owner receives an official Bicentennial Farm sign suitable for outdoor display and a certificate bearing signatures of the Governor of Illinois and the Director of the Illinois Department of Agriculture. All application materials and other papers of historical significance are placed on file at the Illinois Department of Agriculture.

Completed application and verification forms, along with an **\$50** processing fee, should be sent to:

Illinois Bicentennial Farms Program
Illinois Department of Agriculture
State Fairgrounds
P. O. Box 19281
Springfield, Illinois 62794-9281

Please make checks payable to the
Centennial Farm Signs Fund

For more information:

Phone - 217/557-5897 or FAX - 217/524-5960
Email: erin.cleary@illinois.gov



BICENTENNIAL FARM APPLICATION



Name(s) of Present Owner: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Address / Location of Bicentennial Farm: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Township Name: _____ County: _____

Original Purchase Date: _____ Original Acreage: _____ Present Acreage: _____

Name(s) to appear on certificate: _____

Legal description of land (From deed or abstract): _____

List all owners, beginning with original family owner and continuing to present owner:

Date	Name(s)	Relationship to Present Owner
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

The above information is true and correct as attested to by the accompanying legal document — the verification page.

Signature of Applicant Date

To whom should the Department address its correspondence, sign and certificate?

Name: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail address: _____



BICENTENNIAL FARM VERIFICATION



I _____, am:
(print name)

- the County Recorder of _____ County.
- a licensed attorney, or
- an employee/agent of the following title insurance company as defined in 215 ILCS 155/3(2): _____

I hereby verify that I have reviewed the relevant real estate records and determined that the farm legally described as _____ has been owned for 200 years or more by lineal or collateral descendants of the same family. The farm was originally owned by _____ (name) in _____ (year) and the farm is currently owned by _____ (name), a lineal or collateral descendant.

Signature

Address, City, State, Zip

Phone Number

Seal

ORIGINAL OWNER INFORMATION

The information requested on this page concerns the original owner within your family and is not required to receive the Bicentennial Farm marker, however, it is to be completed to give valuable information to the Department of Agriculture and future historians. The questions below are offered only as a guide, so please feel free to add any other data, especially family or pioneer stories concerning the farm and the area around it. Also, copies of any old farm accounts, records or diaries you may have can be included.

1. From whom was the farm purchased? _____
2. How many acres were in the original parcel? _____
3. What was the cost of the land per acre? _____
4. Where was the first owner born? _____
5. Where did he live prior to moving onto the farm? _____
6. Was this a homestead? _____
7. Did the first owner farm the land? _____
8. What improvements did he make? _____
9. Did he engage in any trades or occupations other than farming? _____

10. Is the original home, or any portion of it or other original building still standing or in use? _____

11. When was the present home built? _____
12. What are the farm's major crops or products? _____

13. Do any barns that are 50 years or older exist on the property? If so, please describe _____

Please send to: Bicentennial Farms Program
Illinois Department of Agriculture
Bureau of Marketing, Promotion & Grants
State Fairgrounds, P. O. Box 19281
Springfield, Illinois 62794-9281



FOR OFFICE USE ONLY			
Date Certified:		Certified by:	
		Check Number:	