

Business Notes

Oregon Century Farm and Ranch program applications now open

Applications are now being accepted for the 2007 award year of the Century Farm and Ranch Program, a statewide program honoring farmers and ranchers who have worked the same land for at least 100 years. The program, now in its 49th year, is administered through the Oregon Agricultural Education Foundation (OAEF) in Salem and is partially funded by the Oregon Farm Bureau, the Oregon Historical Society, Oregon State Parks, the Oregon Department of Agriculture, individual contributions.

Family farmers and ranchers throughout Oregon are encouraged to apply by the June 1, 2007 deadline.

Successful applicants receive a personalized certificate, with acknowledgement by the Governor of Oregon and the Director of the Oregon Department of Agriculture. A durable metal road sign identifying the farm or ranch as having historic Century status is also available. Each family will be honored during a special ceremony and reception at the Oregon State Fair in September.

Since the start of the program in 1958, more than 1070 farms and ranches across the State have been registered. Oregon has one of the oldest agricultural heritage programs

of this type in the entire nation.

A formal application process is required for properties to be considered for the program. To qualify as a Century Farm or Century Ranch, the family must meet a total of nine criteria, including the following:

- The farm or ranch must have been operated continuously in the same family for 100 years or more. If the farm or ranch has ever been rented or leased, it may not qualify. Documentation is required.

- The farm or ranch must have a gross income from farming or ranching activities of not less than \$1,000 per year for three out of five years immediately preceding application.

- Family members must live on the property or actively manage and direct the farming or ranching operations.

Application materials are preserved in the manuscript collections of the Oregon Historical Society library and provide useful information for research on the history of agriculture and farm families in Oregon.

For application guidelines and the official form, contact Glenn Mason, Oregon Century Farm and Ranch Program Coordinator at 503-297-5892 or orcentury@juno.com or you may download the application

guidelines on the Oregon Farm Bureau website: http://www.oregonfb.org/programs/century_farm_ranch.shtml or from the Department of Agriculture website

at: http://oda.state.or.us/information/oregon_ag/cfr.html.

Oregon family-owned farms and ranches that have stayed in the family for 150 years now

will be eligible for the Oregon Sesquicentennial Farm and Ranch Award. Call 503-297-5892 for additional information on this new award.

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Job, Career Fair to be March 21st

The eleventh annual Job and Career Fair sponsored by MTC Works and Worksource Oregon Employment Department will be held March 21, from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. at The Olde School, 251 St. Helens Street, St. Helens. The purpose is to help job seekers in Columbia County and surrounding areas. It is free to all job seekers.

Job seekers should come dressed appropriately and have a good supply of resumés to hand out. A variety of employers have been invited to participate and employers from both Oregon and Washington are already registered. They will be collecting information from job seekers (resumés) and possibly giving out applications, or even interviewing on the spot. Job seekers should

be prepared!

Two workshops are being arranged: 1:30 to 2:15 p.m. and 2:30 to 3:15 p.m. The titles of the workshops are not confirmed yet.

The Workforce Investment Act program in Columbia County, operated by MTC Works, helps job seekers with job search skills and other training such as computer classes and GED classes.

The Worksource Oregon Employment Dept. is a State agency that helps match employers and potential employees via the iMatch Skills system. MTC Works and Worksource Oregon have worked together for many years now to help everyone in Columbia County when they are looking for work – or looking for a better job.

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