



# 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 - 217/557-6993

Email: [agr.centfarms@illinois.gov](mailto:agr.centfarms@illinois.gov)



# BICENTENNIAL FARM APPLICATION



Farm Last Name \_\_\_\_\_

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 certify that I have reviewed the relevant real estate records and determined that the farm legally described as \_\_\_\_\_ has been owned for 150 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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of Title Company

\_\_\_\_\_  
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



**Date Certified:**