



# Washington State Department of Agriculture

PO Box 42560  
Olympia, Washington 98504-2560  
*Visit our Web site at:* [agr.wa.gov](http://agr.wa.gov)  
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For immediate release: May 5, 2014 (14-10)

Contact: [Hector Castro](#) (360) 902-1815

## Revisiting Washington's Centennial Farms to celebrate 125 years of statehood

OLYMPIA – To help celebrate Washington's 125<sup>th</sup> birthday, the [Washington State Department of Agriculture](#) (WSDA) plans to reconnect with the more than 400 family farms it recognized as Centennial Farms 25 years ago and is partnering with volunteers around the state to do this.

These farms, located in almost every county of the state, had been continuously operated by the same family for at least 100 years at the time of the state's Centennial celebration in 1989. Profiles of the farms and information on the importance of agriculture and farm families to the settlement and development of the state was presented in the 1989 book, "[Washington's Centennial Farms – Yesterday and Today.](#)"

Last week, Washington's First Lady Trudi Inslee, Honorary Chair of the Commemoration, wrote to the directors of all state agencies, calling on them to join in the celebration by finding ways to recognize this milestone for our state. The effort is being coordinated jointly by the Washington State Historical Society and the Washington Secretary of State.

For its part, WSDA plans to reconnect with [the Centennial Farms](#).

"We would like to learn if the farms that participated in the voluntary Centennial Farm recognition program are still owned and operated by the same families, and what changes have happened to them in the 25 years since," WSDA Director Bud Hover said. "I hope every farm will choose to participate once more."

In the coming days, a cadre of volunteers will be contacting the Centennial Farms to get current contact information. WSDA will then send out a questionnaire to gather updated information about the farms.

"Washington has a long and rich agrarian history," said Jerri Honeyford of Sunnyside, a member of the Washington State Advisory Council on Historic Preservation and coordinator of the project volunteers. "Honoring farm families and agriculture is an important part of any commemoration of Washington's 125<sup>th</sup> year."

When completed later this year, information gathered through the project will be made available on the agency's web site at [www.agr.wa.gov](http://www.agr.wa.gov). Visit the Washington 125 website at [www.WA125.org](http://www.WA125.org) for more information about programs and commemorative events celebrating the state's 125<sup>th</sup> birthday.

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