

New Zealand Century Farm and Station Award

Background

The Century Farm and Station award programme, which commenced in 2005, was initiated by the Lawrence Heritage and Opportunities Working Party to honour farm and station families with century long connections to the land and to acknowledge New Zealand's rich agricultural heritage.

It's a heritage to be proud of, reflected by personal sacrifices, perseverance and commitment to a way of life. Keeping the farm or station from generation to generation is an impressive achievement, and the New Zealand Century Farm and Station award celebrates those families who have owned and operated the same land for 100 years or more. A special Sesquicentennial Award will be presented to those families whose tenure exceeds 150 years.

The Award

It is important that these families be recognised. If your family meets the requirements for eligible applicants, please complete an application form. You will receive a certificate, and metal plaque commemorating this hundredth year milestone. The plaque, which can be placed at the farm gate or hung on a building, symbolises your family's perseverance and their ability to keep farming in the face of constant change.

Above all else, it represents the hard work and desire to carry on, what was 100 years ago a dream, then a reality, and is now a family tradition.

Eligibility

There are many Century farms and stations in New Zealand. The award celebrates all forms of agriculture, including cropping, livestock, forestry, viticulture and horticulture. Criteria has been set to identify these families, and it includes the following:

- Only the legal owner/s of the property may apply for the Century Farm or Century Station honour.
- Your farm or station must have been operated continuously in the same family for 100 years or more. A farm or station settled any time 100 years ago or earlier will be eligible if it meets other requirements.
- You must live on the farm or station, or if you live off the property, you must actively manage and direct the farming activity on the land. If the entire farm or station has ever been leased to other individuals, it may not qualify.
- The line of ownership from the original settler or buyer may be through children, siblings, or nephews and nieces, including through marriage or adoption.
- Co-ownerships by multiple family members (husband-and-wife, brother and sister etc) are eligible for a single joint award. If the farm/ station is a family corporation, one of the principal stockholders must be a direct descendent.
- Applications must be submitted on official forms provided by the Century Farm and Station Award programme with all questions completed. Applicants must submit an additional narrative of family history not specifically requested in the application (an abbreviated form will need to be included in a printed booklet distributed on the night; further information on these requirements will be communicated on acceptance of the application). Copies of historical photographs are greatly encouraged. All information, including photographs, will be deposited in the Alexander Turnbull Library, Wellington, for future reference.
- All applications must include verification of continuous ownership for 100 years.
- Deadline for returning applications is **30 November** of the current year. All applications postmarked by midnight of that date will be considered. NZCFSA operates on a "first in, first served" basis and reserves the right to carry over applications to the following year if a large number are received for a given year.

Century Farm and Station Programme Application

Date

Type of designation (please check)

Farm Station 100 years 150 years

Legal owner(s) name

Mailing address

Telephone

Email address

Local district

Location of farm or station

Distance from the nearest town

Survey District

Legal description/valuation number

Original Family owner(s)

Date (year) this farm or station was acquired
(Attach verifying documentation. See
Qualifications)

Founders came to the area from

If married, name of first owner's spouse

How many children did they have

Who farms or grazes the land today

Relationship to original owner

How many acres/hectares were in the
original parcel

If known, what was the cost of the land purchased

Are any of the buildings still in use

Yes No

Listed with New Zealand Historic Places Trust

Yes No

If yes, please describe

What improvements have been made to the original land; has any adjoining land been purchased, or part of the original farm/station sold? (use additional pages as needed)

What crops or livestock were raised a century ago

What, if any, trades or occupations other than farming or grazing did they engage in

What is raised on the property today

Your responses to the above questions will provide valuable information for future historical researchers and family members. This information along with your application and supporting documents will be deposited at the Alexander Turnbull Library archive for future reference. Please feel free to add any other information pertinent to the farm, station or family history. Do not send any original photographs or documents, as your submission will become the property of the library, and a matter of public record, and as such will not be returned. Thank you.

Statement of affirmation

I, _____ hereby affirm and acclaim

that the farm or station which I own at _____ in

the _____ District, has been owned by my family for at least 100 continuous years, as specified in the qualifications for the Century Farm and Station award, or 150 years if applying for the Sesquicentennial Farm or Station Award, on or before 31 December of the current calendar year. I hereby affirm that this property meets all other requirements for Century Farm or Station honours. I confirm that any photographs taken at the Awards Dinner by NZCFSA may be used for publicity purposes. I understand that the application materials will become the property of the Alexander Turnbull Library and be made available for the use of researchers. However any researcher wishing to publish pictorial material or quotations from any of this material that is still in copyright will be required to obtain the permission of the copyright holders before the Alexander Turnbull Library will give permission for publication. By signing below I understand that I am consenting to the use of this material as set out in the previous two sentences.

Signature of owner

Date

Application Guideline Checklist

The Committee recently introduced a “first in, first served” policy and will use discretion on whether they carry applications over into a following year. We encourage families to get their applications in well in advance of the 30 November deadline to secure their place in the queue.

1. Completed **Application form***
2. **Documentation showing acquisition** of property by original family owner and the date it was acquired*
3. Additional **narrative of family history** relevant to the application. This will be stored at the Alexander Turnbull library for researchers to access in the future. A reduced narrative is required for the family booklet – however requirements around that will be communicated to you once your application has been confirmed.
4. **Photographs**, especially historic, showing family property, buildings and family members, if available.
5. **Maps** or drawings, which show the location of the property throughout the ownership by the family, if available.
6. Completed **Statement of Affirmation**
7. Included non-refundable **\$400 incl GST application fee**, which includes one certificate and the bronze plaque you are awarded on the night*
8. Included payment for any **additional certificates** requested **at \$17.25 incl GST each**.
9. If **contact** information is different from owner information, please include on a separate page.*

***This is the information we require to accept your application. Other information can be sent through at a later date once your application has been processed.**

Please pay electronically into the following ANZ bank account using your family name as a reference: **NEW ZEALAND CENTURY FARMS INC – 060919 0147032 00**.

If you have any questions regarding this application and/or information contained please call the National Coordinator, Anne Barnett on 027 788 8135 or Karen Roughan on 03 485 9696 or email info@centuryfarms.co.nz