

★ **How Old is Michigan's Oldest Farm?**

The de Beusset Farm on Grosse Ile holds the title of the state's oldest farm. Purchased by British government agents and merchants Alexander and William Macomb from members of the Potawatomi tribe, it dates back to 1776: the year of our nation's founding.

The modern-day owner of the farm, Denise de Beausset, is the great-great-granddaughter of the Macombs. She owns 27 acres of the original parcel, and operates it as Westcroft Gardens: a botanical garden and plant nursery.



**Centennial Farm
Major Program Sponsors:**




The Historical Society of Michigan



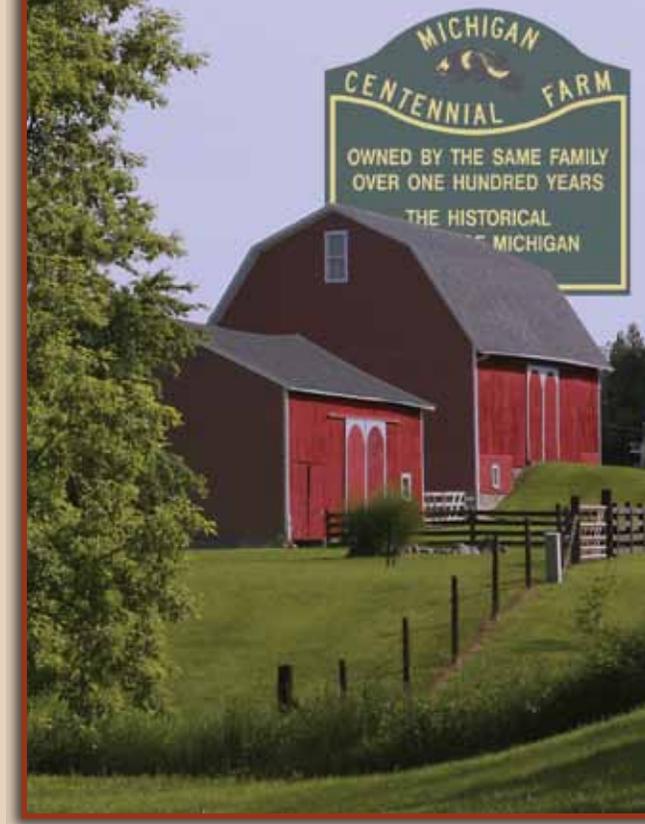
The Centennial Farm Program is administered by the Historical Society of Michigan. Founded in 1828, the Historical Society is dedicated to advancing Michigan's history through publications, conferences, K-12 and adult educational activities, services to local historical organizations, and awards and recognition programs.

The Centennial Farm Program was operated by the Michigan Historical Commission from 1948 to 2008.

Centennial Farm Program
The Historical Society of Michigan
5815 Executive Drive
Lansing, MI 48911
Phone: (517) 324-1828
Fax: (517) 324-4370
hsm@hsmichigan.org
www.hsmichigan.org

The Historical Society of Michigan

**Centennial
Farm Program**



**Celebrating Michigan's
Oldest Family Farms**



www.hsmichigan.org

★ Take Your Place in Michigan's Farming History

If your family has owned and operated a Michigan farm for 100 years or more, that's a significant accomplishment. The Historical Society of Michigan (HSM) can help you celebrate that milestone by offering certification through its Centennial Farm Program.

Is My Farm Eligible to be a Centennial Farm?

If your farm meets certain criteria, it's likely to be eligible for Michigan Centennial Farm designation.

First, it must be a working farm. Second, it must encompass more than 10 acres. Third, ownership of the farm must have remained in the same family for 100 or more consecutive years.

What Does It Take to Certify a Centennial Farm?

There is an application to be filled out and mailed in, along with supporting material including photographs, deeds, and a site plan. Once all materials required have been received, a certification decision will be made and the owners notified.

What Benefits Come with Centennial Farm status?

First and foremost, you get to post a handsome, green metallic sign in your yard which demonstrates to the community your commitment to agriculture. These signs are generously sponsored by local electric companies. You will also receive a frame-ready certificate and a one-year complimentary membership in the Historical Society of Michigan: our state's oldest cultural organization. Centennial Farm status also makes you eligible to join the exclusive Michigan Centennial Farms Association.

How Do I Begin the Application Process?

To apply for Centennial Farm status, contact the Historical Society's Awards and Recognition Coordinator at (517) 324-1828 or hsm@hsmichigan.org. Additional information such as the certification application can be found on HSM's homepage at www.hsmichigan.org.



★ DO YOU OWN A SESQUICENTENNIAL FARM?

Farms that have been owned and operated by the same family for at least 150 years can be designated Sesquicentennial Farms under the same HSM process. Celebrate this additional significant milestone in your families history with a special sesquicentennial sign. A special application form for this designation can be found at www.hsmichigan.org



★ THE MICHIGAN CENTENNIAL FARM ASSOCIATION

The Michigan Centennial Farm Association (MCFA) was established more than 50 years ago to serve the owners of our state's 6,000 Centennial Farms. Besides hosting an annual meeting, the association publishes an informative member newsletter and makes scholarships available to MCFA family members who are pursuing careers in agriculture-related fields. For more information, visit the MCFA website at www.michigancentennialfarm.org

