

Oregon Century Farm & Ranch Program Award Presentation 2016
Family Narratives for Awards Committee Meeting & Awards
As of 8/5/18

Century Awards:

J.G. Kuenzi Farm, H.M.K : Founded in Marion County in 1917 by Johann Gottlieb (J.G. Kuenzi)
Applicant is Kuenzi Brothers Farms, LLC—Lyle & Nelson Kuenzi

In 1917, Johann Gottlieb Kuenzi traded a 50-acre Mt. Pleasant farm for the 217-acre Trenton Hibbard farm near Silverton. Trenton Hibbard was an early pioneer in the Silverton area. Mr. Hibbard had the house and barn built in 1865 for \$200 each. Johann Gottlieb, J.G., as he was known, told his three sons that if they would help him on the farm until he was out of debt, he would give each of them an 80-acre parcel. Lyle & Nelson Kuenzi's grandfather, Harvey M. Kuenzi, received his 80 acres in 1928 but had been on the land working it with his father since 1922, upon which he built a house and barn. The house and barn were built 1922-23. Harvey cleared some of the land. He used some of the saplings to build the house foundation. He milked a few cows, had some hogs, chickens, and sheep. He raised corn for silage, oats and wheat, clover for hay and seed. When his son James (Jim) took over the farm in 1967, he raised hogs—farrow to fat hogs. He also added grass seed, raspberries, & marionberries. When Lyle & Nelson Kuenzi entered the farming operation, blueberries, & other varieties of blackberries were added to the crop list. Lyle and Nelson are great grandsons of the Founder Johann Gottlieb (J.G.) Kuenzi.

Watts Ranch: Founded in Klamath County in 1910 by James O. Watts. Applicant is James C. Watts.

Jim and Jack Watts moved from Utah in 1910 to settle in the Sprague River Valley near the town of Bly. At that time they went in partnership with Ed and EJ Casebeer to form what was known as The Sprague River Land and Livestock Co. With a combined acreage of around 5,000 acres, running cattle and putting up hay for them. In 1916 the partners separated, each running their three separate ranches. The Watts Ranch consisted of 2,000 acres, running 200+ cows and putting up hay for them. In 1953 James Owen Watts passed away and the ranch was taken over by Owen Roehl Watts, James C.'s father. In 1967, all but 400 acres were sold. The Watts Ranch presently consists of two separate places. The upper 150 acre meadow with reservoir and flood irrigation is where the cows are kept for the summer. This part of the ranch was an original homestead with a log cabin. James C.'s great grandmother and family stayed there raising dairy cattle. They milked them and transported the milk in a buckboard wagon to the town, where it was sold. The lower ranch where we live was once the mail stage stop for the stage running from Lakeview to Klamath Falls. A spare team was kept here and my grandmother fixed lunches for them as they completed their journey from Lakeview to Klamath Falls. Currently James C. and wife Nolene Gentry Watts run it with a few cows and horses. Future plans for ranch are to turn it over to the next generation; Christina Denise Watts Gray and James Charles Watts, Jr. children of James C. and Nolene. James C. Watts Jr. has three boys, Parker, Brady and Ryder Watts. James C. Watts is grandson of the Founder James O. Watts.

Brown Farm: Founded in Morrow County in 1912 by Chris P. Brown. Applicant is Chris E. Brown

The Brown Farm story began when Chris P. Brown immigrated to U.S. from Denmark in 1892 at the age of 17. In the Spring on 1912 he purchased 350 acres of dry land wheat property along the Willow Creek drainage northwest of Heppner in Morrow County. Early farming practices required working with horses and he also raised beef cattle. Following his marriage to Alta Spurlock who came west from Missouri, they would raise one son, Paul who was born on the farm in 1920 and went to school in a one room

schoolhouse which still stands on the property. Paul served in in the US Army in WWII and following his repatriation from a Japanese prison camp in 1946 camp returned to take over farming operations from his father. At this time, he married Betty Jean Goodman from Burns and they would raise 2 son's (Chris and Mark) on the Brown Farm. Paul and Betty actively worked the wheat farm over the next several years and expanded the property to a total of 1400 acres. Paul believed in progressive farming techniques and was one of the first farmers in Morrow County to place his acreage in contour strips to reduce soil erosion and fire danger. In 1954 he was named Morrow County Conservation man of the year and was also on the cover of the Oregon Farmer magazine in August 1955.

In 1986, Paul enrolled the farm acreage into the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) and seeded various grasses mixed with alfalfa on the land. Although that initial program focus has shifted from erosion control to improvement of wildlife habitat now, the Brown Farm property remains an active and viable operation.

Over the last 10 years a cost share program with ODFW and Morrow County Soil and Water Conservation district annually provides for about 40 acres of inter-seeding of native grasses and wildland grasses conducive to the improvement of Big game and Upland bird habitat on the farm. Chris E. Brown, who with his wife Kathy now lives and manages the farm, is the grandson of the Founder Chris P. Brown.

Wilsonview Dairy Inc.: Founded in Tillamook County in 1918 by Alfred Josi. Applicant is Don & Desi Josi and Derrick & Kaycee Josi.

The beginnings of the farm start with the Josi family arriving from Switzerland in 1912. Alfred and his brother John entered into a lease to buy option with George and Mary Durrer who had bought the farm in 1909. Alfred immediately started making payments towards the eventually payoff and was able to pay off the option to buy in 1923 after also buying out the shares of his brother John in 1921. The farms main focus for 100 years has been dairying and all that has occurred in that industry during that time. While over the years the different generations have added additional acreage to the farm by both purchase and lease. The applicants Don and Derrick are the grandson and great grandson of Alfred Josi.

Henry W. Jones Farm: Founded in Yamhill County in 1918 by Henry W. Jones. Applicants are Steven and Gretchen Jones.

In December of 1918 Henry W. Jones and his wife Minta purchased the farm along the South Yamhill River, four miles west of Amity, where four generation have since farmed the land. They moved from Henry's father's original homestead, which Thomas T. Jones established in 1847 in the foothills about 7 miles south west of McMinnville. Henry W. and Minta operated farm until his death in 1939. Their son Russell and wife Harriet then purchased and operated the farm. Early crops were crimson, white and red clover, wheat, oats, alfalfa and silage corn. Irrigation was introduced in 1961 and changed from the Vermeer sprinkler that went to brother William's farm to 3 inch hand lines. Hay from the clover was baled in June and sold to dairy farms in Lincoln and Tillamook counties. Then the fields were irrigated and seed was combined in October. In 1977 a seed cleaner was added for the seed crops. In 1989 they added perennial ryegrass to the cropping schedule. In 1972, Steve bought the farm and the following year he married Gretchen. They have resided there ever since, raising their four children, two boys and two girls. Their son Ryan and his family currently rent the homeplace and Steve and Gretchen are in the process of retiring and passing the farm down to the next generation. Ryan has been instrumental in the planning of a new crop Hazelnuts in 2008. Steve is the grandson of the founder.

Howard-Allstott Ranch: Founded in Umatilla County in 1884 by William M. Howard. Applicant is Richard & Dorothy Howard Allstott

William Howard came west with his family in 1862 settling in Lane County for a period of time but as soon as he became old enough came to Umatilla County and filed the first claim for property in the Camas Valley which was approved in 1884. He married Wildia Oliver in 1870 and they had 6 children. During the 1878 Indian War the Indians camped on his ranch and killed his stock and destroyed buildings. During this time he took his family to Echo Oregon to live with relatives. His wife and youngest child died in 1884, the same year the Homestead deed was recorded. Upon William's death the ranch was passed to Charles Howard their son. Charles added to the ranch and worked on the land with his father prior to his death. The ranch then passed to Charles son Lyle. Lyle kept the ranch, managing the land and stock going through some hard times and was proud to be able to pass it to his daughter Dorothy. Dorothy and husband Richard currently own and manage the land. They belong to a program called Oregon Tree Farm to keep the forest health strong. Timber has been harvested to control insects and health of the forest as well. Some of the acreage has been put in CRP to help plant more vegetation and keep livestock out of the stream. The applicant Dorothy Howard Allstott is the great granddaughter of the founder William M. Howard.

Rockwell-Doherty: Founded in Umatilla County in 1906 by Seth H. Rockwell and wife Sarah Rockwell. Applicant is Brand X Ranch LLC—Richard Doherty

Seth and Sarah travelled to Oregon from Kansas in 1906 purchasing the first part of the farm then. Upon Seth's death in 1926, Sara was left to manage ranch with her two children Robert and Guy Rockwell. Guy eventually ended up running the farm. Early crops were fruit orchards, large gardens, dryland wheat, barley, oats, alfalfa, and grass hay. His daughter Iris and husband Joseph Doherty added a large horse barn to the farm and she was well known for raising purebred Arabian horses. The also developed the property into circle irrigated in the 1970's. Irrigated wheat, CRP, pasture grass, and alfalfa hay are current crops on the farm today. Richard and his siblings upon the death of their Mom, Iris, formed a partnership to keep the ranch in the family. Richard manages the pastures, irrigation, fences, maintains the CRP ground and contracts for rentals of homes on the farm. Richard Doherty and his siblings that make up Brand X Ranch LLC are great grandchildren of founders Seth and Sarah Rockwell.

Tilla-Bay Farms, Inc.: Founded in Tillamook County by Fred Josi in 1918. Applicant is Bart, Terry, and Kurt Mizee

Fred and Gotfried Josi purchased the land in 1918. They divided the property and each built a barn on their respective parcel. Fred and his wife Lina had one daughter Ruth Anne Josi. The early farm milked about 24 cows and consisted of 34 acres. Ruth Anne's husband Rudy Fenk Jr. drove truck for close to 20 years for TCCA while Ruth Anne did the farm chores. The added the first milk parlor as well as a free stall cow barn in Tillamook County. Automatic takeoffs were added to milking machines in 1975. They had 2 daughters and one son. The girls, Terry and Cathy, fed calves in the morning before school and helped with evening milking afterschool. In 1975, Terry and husband Bart Mizee moved back to the farm in Tillamook after Bart finished school in Utah. Around 1982, the Fenk-Mizee farm became Tilla-Bay Farms, Inc. They were milking about 200 at this time. Bart and Terry continued to purchase stock from Rudy and Ruth Anne. Bart and Terry's son Kurt has now become part of the farm as well. Today Rudy at 92 and Ruth at 86 are still an active part of the farm. They live on the original homestead parcel in the home that Ruth was born in and where they raised their family. Bart and Kurt continue to make the day to day decisions on the farm. Terry is the granddaughter and Kurt is the great grandson of the founder Fred Josi.

DeLano Farms: Founded in Clackamas County in 1916 by Hatsil O. DeLano. Applicants are Karen DeLano, Sharon DeLano, and Renata Squier.

Hatsil purchased approximately 56.75 acres in 1916 that is referred to now as the “Homeplace”. He moved his family, 2 sons and 2 daughters and wife Nancy in 1917 to the land. The family sold milk to the local creamery from their dairy cows as this was the main source of income for the farm at this time. They sold fryers, lettuce, asparagus, and other farm produce at the Yamhill Street Farmers market in Portland in the 1930’s. Son Howard would hitch the family horse Queenie to the Studebaker wagon and leave for Portland at 3 AM they sold fryers, lettuce, asparagus and other farm produce. After Hatsil’s death in 1956, Howard returned to the farm and bought it from his mother Nancy. He brought his 3 children and his wife Margaret to the farm. They raised sheep and cattle in addition to the hay for the animals. The added to the farm by adding acreage throughout their years. Their daughter, Karen, moved back to the farm in 1984 and in 1987 Renata Squier was hired as a farm hand. In 1994, Howard and Margaret, built a horse barn and arena. Karen and Rennie managed a boarding and training program in addition to raising purebred Lipizzaner horses. Howard continued to purchase adjoining lands to expand it to its current size of 216 acres. Today, Karen continues to run the horse barn business and Rennie continues raising the Gelbvieh cattle and hay on the farm. Karen and Sharon are granddaughters of Founder Hatsil O. DeLano.

Sandoz Farm: Founded in Wasco County in 1880 by Alphonse, Arnold, & Charles Sandoz. Applicant is Ted Sandoz.

The three founding brothers came to the Mill Creek Valley in The Dalles with a knowledge of horticulture. After two years of working the land and saving their money they purchased the land in 1880. The early crops were root vegetables, fruit trees, and grapes. Potatoes, carrots, parsnips, celery, tomatoes, pumpkins, and other squash were the primary crops. Early on they had a milk cow, and raised hogs and the milk cows calf was for meat. As the farm was passed down to the generations, the knowledge of the land and what grew well became more evident over the years. Subsequently more fruit trees were planted on side hills, and vegetables on the creek bottom. The second generation, Julius, soon realized that cherries grew very well so more orchards were established as well as some peach and Apple orchards. The third generation, Charlie, started using the upper hills for rangeland for cattle and the creek bottom was cleared of scrub oak and turned into irrigated hay fields which produced all the winter feed for the livestock. In 1950 the first Angus cattle were introduced to the land by Charlie and this became a large enterprise for the farm both for beef and breeding stock. The family members Ted, Charles Lee, and Mary who are the great grandchildren of Charles Sandoz one of the founding brothers now operate the farm. Their enterprises include cherry orchards, cattle, hogs, hay and vegetable gardens. They currently have a farm stand in which they sell USDA Beef, pork, fruit, vegetables and value added products.

Beitel Farm: Founded in Marion County in 1915 by Alois & Cecilia Beitel. Applicant is John Beitel.

The farm was founded in 1915 by Alois and Cecilia Beitel. They were both born in Austria in small towns near each other in the foothills of the Alps. The area is part of the Czech Republic today. When Alois was 10 years old, Alois immigrated to the US with his parents and they settled near Humphrey Nebraska in 1879. Alois married Theresa Albracht in 1897 and they had one child, Marie Lulay. Theresa passed away in 1899. Cecilia immigrated to the U.S. in 1901 and married Alois in 1905. They had John A., and Angela in Nebraska, Tony was born in Salem, OR. Florence was born in Nebraska. In Sublimity, they had Agnes, Gertrude, Rose, and Betty Silbernagel. Angela, Gertrude and Rose died in childhood. In 1909, Alois moved to a farm in south Salem. For some unknown reason, they

then moved back to Nebraska. One rumor had it that Cecilia said that the cows never got fat here like they did in the old country (Austria). Then in 1915, they returned to Oregon and settled on the farm near Sublimity. The farm was a typical farm from the early 1900's with cows, pigs, sheep, goats, chickens and maybe ducks being raised. Horses provided the horsepower to farm the land, producing food in the form of oats, hay, dry land corn silage and a little wheat to feed the animals. They also sold some wood from the woodlot. At times, they sold sword fern out of the woodlot and peeled Chittum bark, also known as Cascara bark. In 2017, John J formed an LLC with his wife Debbie, and their son, John R to start a transition to the next generation. John R graduated from OSU in 2015 with a degree in crop science. He has had farming in his blood his whole life, since he rode the tractor with his Dad when he was an infant. He began running combine when he was 11 years old and has worked full time on the farm since 2015. The grass seed crops continue to be the main crop of the farm along with some rotational crops such as turnips and peas to break up weed cycles. John J. is the grandson of the founder.

Tideman Johnson Farm: Founded in Multnomah County in 1880 by Tideman & Olava Johnson. Applicant is Steve Johnson.

Tideman and Olava settled the land, 60 acres, in 1880. Tideman immigrated from Norway in 1870. He worked for the rail line and they moved to Portland in the late 1870's. He continued his work for the rail line in the Brooklyn railroad yards in SE Portland while he and Olava pursued their dreams of farming the land they had bought. Tideman and Olava passed away in 1912 and 1913 and Tideman's brother Telmer and his wife, Eva, took over the farming. When they passed much of the land was sold off in the 1940's and 1950's. . In 1942 the family donated some land to the City of Portland for a park, fittingly called the Tideman Johnson Natural Park Kenneth Johnson, father of applicant inherited 8 acres and original house that was on the land. He continued to farm the land and lease parts to the Italian families that had leased it from his predecessors. Ken sold flowers and vegetables at a farm stand on the property. The farming of the land has continued in cooperation with farmers and organizations. Portland's first CSA (community supported farm), Urban Bounty Farm, 47th Street Farm, and most recently the Permaculture Institute for Children have all made use of the land for CSA and educational events. There have been over 5000 visitors to the farm to volunteer or attend educational events held there. Steve continues to manage and maintain the farm for the tenants. Steve Johnson is the great grandchild of the Founder Tideman Johnson.

Sesquicentennial Awards:

Robinson Stilwell Taggart: Founded in Yamhill County in 1844 by Benjamin Robinson and Elizabeth Chrisman. Applicants are John & Lois Taggart.

Benjamin and Elizabeth made a full donation land claim to the land in 1844 after traveling to Oregon on the Clyman wagon train. They arrived in Oregon in November 1844. They married in the spring of 1845 and moved into a log cabin on the land. Early crops were raising cattle, horses, and later grain crops and vegetables. When the donation claim act passed in 1850, he and Elizabeth applied and it was approved. Two of their surviving children Mary and Eliza both graduated from Willamette University as teachers. Eliza married John Stillwell in 1873. Over the years the farming became more productive but crops really remained the same. Today it is leased to local farmers in Dayton with the owners remaining key in the management and production of the land. John is the great-great grandson of Benjamin and Elizabeth Robinson.

Mullen Farms: Founded in Marion County in 1852 by Robert Keaton & Mary Mullen. Applicant is Gerald & Kathleen and James and Nadine Mullen.

Robert Keaton, son of Mrs. Mary Mullen from prior marriage came to US from Ireland took up land claim of 160 acres of land. Mary and son Patrick soon arrived on the farm in 1859. In 1870, Robert left farm to mine for gold and he went to the Civil War and was never heard from again. Patrick continued to farm is half-rother farm and married a Mary Flynn. Their son Charles S. Mullen Sr. was born in the farmhouse and he purchased it from his siblings in 1920. He lived there for 101 years. Early crops were hay, oats, barley, clover, hops, wheat, dairy cattle, chicken, hogs & sheep. Today the farm raises grass seed, snap beans, sweet corn, squash, wheat, clover, hazelnuts, and vegetable seeds. Cattle, hogs, goats, and chickens are also raised for family consumption. Gerald and James are great grandsons of the founder.