



TENNESSEE CENTURY FARMS

The Land • The People • The Legacy

A joint program of the MTSU Center for Historic Preservation and the Tennessee Department of Agriculture

Fall 2005

Vol. 2 Issue 2

Grants Available to Change, Expand, Improve Farming Operations

Tennessee's farmers have the opportunity to receive cost share grants through the Tennessee Agricultural Growth Initiative. The goal of the grants is to help farmers change, expand, or improve their operations through production of diversified agricultural products that include agritourism, aquaculture, bees, flowers, fruits, horticulture, goats, organics, value-added products, vegetables, viticulture, and others as approved by the Tennessee Department of Agriculture.

The initiative is funded through a \$5 million appropriation for farm programs in this year's state budget as proposed by Governor Phil Bredesen and supported by the Tennessee General Assembly. Farmers can now apply for reimbursement of 35 percent cost share for activities or items within several funding categories. "These are substantial grants," said Tennessee Commissioner of Agriculture Ken Givens. "We want Tennessee farmers to know we mean business when we say we want to help them do business for a long time into the future."

Applications are now available through the Tennessee Department of Agriculture Market Development office and may be downloaded and printed from the department's Web site, www.picktnproducts.org. The application must be completed and mailed to the department by the application deadline. For more information, contact Jan Keyser, Agricultural Growth Initiative program coordinator, Tennessee Department of Agriculture, P.O. Box 40627, Nashville, TN 37204; (615) 837-5346; or by e-mail at Ag.Growth@state.tn.us.



Campbell Century Farm in Maury County, courtesy of the family.

Century Farms

(certified since the June 2005 issue)

BEASON ACRES

County: Claiborne
 Owner: Aaron Beason
 Date Founded: 1855

BLUE LAKE RANCH

County: Wilson
 Owner: Robert and Linda Nipp
 Date Founded: 1891

CARTER-MILLER FARM

County: Wilson
 Owner: Wesley Farris
 Date Founded: 1898

CRENSHAW CHRISTMAS TREE FARM

County: Gibson
 Owner: Thomas Crenshaw
 Date Founded: 1861

CROUCH FARM

County: Pickett
 Owner: Justine Reed
 Date Founded: 1904

DODD FARM

County: Hardin
 Owner: John Bradley
 Date Founded: 1893

DUGGIN FARM

County: Cannon
 Owner: Allen Duggin
 Date Founded: 1894

HAGGARD FARM

County: Wayne
 Owner: Martin Haggard
 Date Founded: 1886

HALE'S HALF ACRE FARM

County: Cannon
 Owner: Kenneth Garrett
 Date Founded: 1823

HILL TOP FARM

County: Wilson
 Owner: Mary Jo Preston
 Date Founded: 1821

JOHN MASSEY FARM

County: Lincoln
 Owner: John Massey
 Date Founded: 1905

NICHOLS' CREEKSIDE FARM

County: Hickman
 Owner: John Cochran
 Date Founded: 1879

OZBURN HOLLOW FARM

County: Williamson
 Owner: F. Perry Ozburn
 Date Founded: 1806

RIVER DALE FARM

County: Cocke
 Owner: John Ayers
 Date Founded: 1794

RUTH-E FARM

County: Marshall
 Owner: Daniel E. Moss
 Date Founded: 1783

STEVENS-MANNING FARM

County: Dekalb
 Owner: Terry Manning
 Date Founded: 1892

THOMAS JACKSON FARM

County: Rutherford
 Owner: Thomas Jackson
 Date Founded: 1811

WELKER FARM

County: Houston
 Owner: Otho Welker
 Date Founded: 1850

WOLFENBARGER FARM

County: Union
 Owner: Varnell Wolfenbarger
 Date Founded: 1903

WRIGHT PLACE

County: Wilson
 Owner: Fred Wright
 Date Founded: 1866



Mary Jo Preston, Hilltop Farms, received her sign at the annual Century Farms luncheon, a popular event of the Wilson County Fair.

The Tennessee Ag Tag!

Consider purchasing an Ag Tag license plate in 2006 and help fund projects including 4-H, FFA, and the Century Farm sign program.



Students Work with Century Farms Program Administration

Kevin Cason holds the first Century Farm internship at the Center for Historic Preservation. The internship is funded jointly by the Tennessee Department of Agriculture, through the Ag Tag program, and the CHP. Kevin, whose hometown is Tullahoma, received his bachelor of arts in history from Belmont University. He is a recent graduate of MTSU with a master of arts in public history. While studying for the M. A., he worked at the Rutherford County Archives. Kevin is pursuing a Ph.D. in public history at MTSU, and his particular interests are in American cultural history and state and local history. Kevin's primary work is related to preparing farm entries for the Century Farms Web site, but he will spend some of his year-long internship working with the staff of the Oscar Farris Agricultural Museum.

For the past year, Erin Lobb has worked with the Century Farms program processing files, managing the photographic collection, and assisting with planning for the Web site. Erin is a second-year graduate student in MTSU's clinical psychology program and holds a B.A. in psychology from the University of Mississippi. A native of Jackson, Mississippi, Erin is interested in behavioral treatments of childhood developmental disabilities, specifically autism. Erin will continue to work with the CHP through the spring of 2006 on various projects including Century Farms and the Iron Furnace Trail.

Two New Publications Available for Farmers

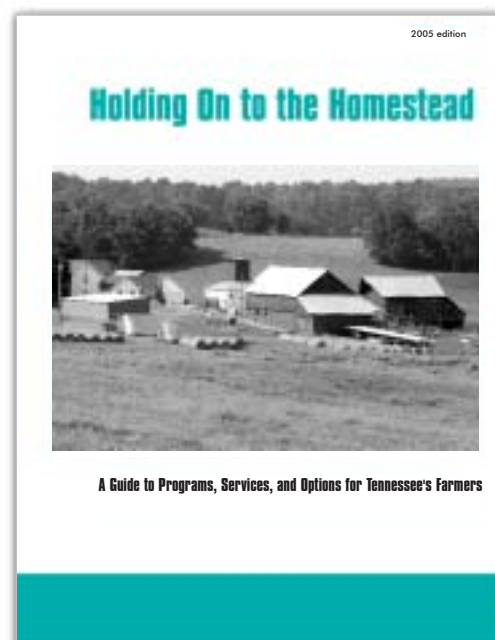
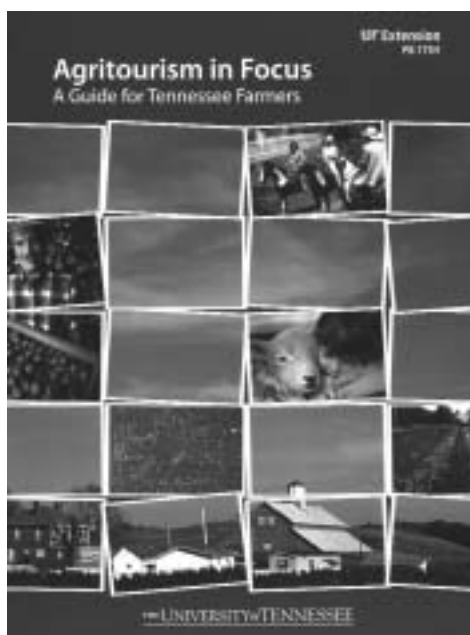
Agritourism in Focus: A Guide for Tennessee Farmers

is intended to help farmers and agritourism operators evaluate agritourism opportunities, plan agritourism enterprises, and resolve business-related issues and obstacles. Developed and released by the University of Tennessee Center for Profitable Agriculture, the publication includes topics such as business and market planning, customer service, risk management, safety considerations, and regulations. Agritourism operations range from cut-your-own Christmas tree and pick-your-own fruit farms to corn mazes, pumpkin patches, and on-farm retail markets for farm-fresh produce or products such as jellies, baked goods, and wines. This publication is one of the efforts of the Tennessee Agritourism Initiative which includes the Tennessee Departments of Agriculture, Tourist Development, and Economic and Community Development; the Tennessee

Farm Bureau Federation; and U.T. Extension, including the Center for Profitable Agriculture. The publication is available free of charge from local U.T. Extension offices or online at <http://cpa.utk.edu>.

Holding On to the Homestead: A Guide to Programs, Services, and Options for Tennessee's Farmers

is now available from the Center for Historic Preservation (see article in summer 2005 issue of the Century Farm newsletter) or from sponsors including the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency, Cumberland Region Tomorrow, Central Basin Resource Conservation and Development District Council, and Greater Nashville Regional Council. Call or e-mail to request your complimentary copy today (see contact information on page four of this newsletter). You may also view the publication at the CHP Web site at <http://histpres.mtsu.edu>.





Three generations of the Wolfenbarger family shown at their century farm. (L to R) Nathan, Varnell, and Marvin.



Cannon County Duggin Farm

This Tennessee Century Farms newsletter is produced as a public service by the Center for Historic Preservation at MTSU.

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The Tennessee Century Farms Program, a joint effort of the Tennessee Department of Agriculture and the Center for Historic Preservation at Middle Tennessee State University, documents, recognizes, interprets, and supports the conservation of farms that have been in continuous production and owned by the same family for at least 100 years.

Please direct comments and inquiries regarding applications, existing farm files, and this newsletter to:

CANETA HANKINS
Director, Tennessee Century Farms Program
Center for Historic Preservation
Middle Tennessee State University, Box 80
Murfreesboro, TN 37132
chankins@mtsu.edu
(615) 898-2947

Please direct inquiries about Century Farm signs to:

LYNNE WILLIAMS
Tennessee Department of Agriculture
Ellington Agricultural Center, P.O. Box 40627
Nashville, TN 37204
Lynne.Williams@state.tn.us
Fax: (615) 837-5194

This newsletter may also be viewed online at <http://histpres.mtsu.edu/histpres>. Click on the "Tennessee Century Farm Sign."

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Tennessee Century Farms Program
Center for Historic Preservation
Middle Tennessee State University, Box 80
Murfreesboro, TN 37132



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