

CFR 0149

Mr. A. L. Ferns

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U.S. Census Definition of a Farm: 10 acres or more with agricultural sales of \$50 or more a year; or, if less than 10 acres, sales of at least \$250 a year.

APPLICATION FOR CENTURY FARM HONORS--1973
(Rules attached)

Deadline for filing application: July 27, 1973.

PLEASE PRINT

Your name (Mr., Mrs., Miss) Mr. A.L. Ferns

Your address: Route _____ P.O. Box _____ Town _____

Location of farm: 4730 Fern Valley Rd Medford, Jackson
(Address) (County)
Oreg

Acres in your farm today: 1685 Acres in original farm: 507

Does your farm comply with U.S. Census definition at top of page? yes

Name of founder of farm (please print): Ebenezer W. Carver

Year founder settled on farm? 1868 Where did he come from? Iowa

How many families have farmed this land? 6

Are any of original buildings still in use? no

Who farms land today? You? ☒ A renter? _____ A manager? _____ Other? Sons

If you own the farm but live in town, do you manage the farming operation? no

What relation are you to the original owner? great grandfather

If you know crops or livestock raised on farm 100 years ago, please list grain

hogs, cattle

What do you raise on farm today? hay and cattle

How many generations live on the farm today? (Names) Three

A.L. Ferns R.A. Ferns L.T. Ferns - L.H. Ferns - E. Herve

Has the farm ever been rented? no How many times has original farm been divided? 12

PLEASE list on separate page attached other historical facts you know about this farm.

Do you declare that the statements made above are accurate and correct to the best of your knowledge? yes

Archie L. Ferns

Signature of Owner

Mail to: State Dept. of Agriculture
Agriculture Building, Salem, Oregon
97310

JUL 23 1973

State Department of Agriculture
Oregon Historical Society

CERTIFICATION OF OWNERSHIP OF CENTURY FARM

I hereby certify that the farm for which Archie L. Ferns
Owner's name and address
4730 Fern Valley Road is applying for Century Farm honors,
Medford, Oregon

has been in his family continuously for 100 or more years.

Date:

July 10, 1973

Henry F. Adams

*County Commissioner

~~Recorder~~

JACKSON COUNTY COMMISSIONER

*Please strike office not applicable

AUG 22 1973

Allen's P. C. B. Est. 1888

Jackson

Phoenix Area Ranch Honored As Century Farm In Oregon

By JOE COWLEY

Mail Tribune Staff Writer

The A. L. Ferns' ranch on Fern Valley Road, in the Phoenix area, will be one of the honored century farms commemorated during special ceremonies Friday, Aug. 31, at the Oregon State Fair in Salem.

But, Archie Ferns, well known livestock man of Jackson County, doesn't plan to be there, he said.

"I'm too old and too busy," he commented Saturday.

Two of his sons, Robert and Lloyd Ferns, are running the hay and cattle ranch now. The father is selling it to them under contract and giving them a little help with their farming.

Ferns' great-grandfather on his mother's side, Ebenezer W. Carver, developed a little under 1,000 acres in 1868. Later the original ranch was apportioned among the Ferns family. A. L. Ferns said he added to his holdings to bring it up to about 1,650 acres. He has three boys and two girls. The three boys and one of the girls are still living on the place. About 500 acres of the original ranch remain.

Quarter Circle "F" Brand

He said about 130 acres is irrigated for hay. The rest of it is range land. The "F" brand with a quarter circle over it is a familiar one to local cattlemen. Ferns has been a member of the Jackson County Stockmen's Association for many years.

Ferns' mother and father came here from Iowa by railroad. They loaded everything they could into part of a railroad car. Ferns was two years old when his father died. Did he start farming when pretty young?

"As soon as I got up on my hind legs!" he replied. "I started milking cows when I was five or six years old."

"When I first came here mostly everything was in grain. Farmers took their grain to two flour mills in the Ashland area, one at the foot of Billings' hill and one, I believe, was at what is now called Water Street. All farm travel then was by horse and wagon."

Five Cents A Pound

During the Great Depression of the 1930's Ferns sold dairy cows for beef at five cents a pound. He was then milking about 20 cows and had 300

sheep. About 10 years ago coyotes and dogs had killed so many of his sheep that he dropped the sheep business and turned to beef animals. He trapped a lot of coyotes and shot a lot of dogs. That and the work of a government trapper reduced greatly the number of coyotes in the area. He believes there aren't nearly as many coyotes now in his area. At least, they don't bother his 200 head of stock cows.

Current prices of beef are the highest he has known. These are the prices cattlemen should have been receiving a long time ago, he said.

Thirty-seven Oregon families still operate farms their ancestors settled a century or more ago and represent 17 Oregon counties, according to a State Department of Agriculture news release. The Ferns' farm is the only century farm in Jackson County being honored this year.