

CFR 0494

Riley Ward and Elizabeth Mendenhall

APPLICATION FOR CENTURY FARM HONORS

Location and size of farm 4 miles N.W of
Willamina, Size 113A
 Present owner ^{Riley} Ward & Elizabeth Mendenhall
 Address Rte. 2, Box 80, Willamina
 Do you live on this farm and farm the land? Yes

Do you make \$150.00 a year
 or more from this farm? Yes

If you live off this land, do you manage
 the farm operation? _____

Name and date of first generation owner Charles E. Fendall ^{Amanda Fendall}

Abstract gives date of Instrument for Donation patent as Feb. 14, 1867. ^{But also in abstract is a list of released mortgages} ^{Date} #1: Given Sept 3, 1857 #2 given Dec 18, 1858 ^{Date}

Brief description of farm Nearly all under cultivation. Oak grove on W. boundary
Willamina Ck. near E. boundary. Buildings. They are on an adjoining tract.

History Charles Fendall settled here in 1840's.

on 628 A. Son's W.E. and Philip R. each got 100A more or less. Philip's passed to Richard his son.

Riley Ward Mendenhall is son of Roxie Fendall who is daughter of Riley Fendall brother of Philip.

We purchased land from Richard.

Signature of present owner

Ward Mendenhall
Elizabeth Mendenhall

Appraised
 July 19, 1958
 G. B. Sereno
 Co. Judge

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A F F I D A V I T

I, Elizabeth Mendenhall being first duly sworn and on oath, depose and state that statements made on the attached application are true and that the real property described therein has been owned or managed in the same family, passing through brothers or sisters, or sons or daughters, to their children's children or adopted children and that all other requirements for a Century Farm Certificate, as set forth in the regulations have been met to the best of my knowledge and I make this affidavit in support of my eligibility for this honor.

Elizabeth Mendenhall
Signature of owner

STATE OF OREGON)
) ss.
County of Yamhill)

On this 15th day of July, 1958, before me, the undersigned, a Notary Public in and for said County and State, personally appeared the within named Elizabeth Mendenhall who is known to me to be the identical individual described in and who executed the same freely and voluntarily.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my official seal the day and year last above written.

Bernice E. Pearson
Notary Public
My Commission Expires Jan. 26, 1958

Route 2, Box 80
Hillman, Oregon
Nov. 20, 1958

Judith Scharf
Oregon Historical Society
Portland 1, Oregon

Dear Miss Scharf,

Thank you for sending
us our certificate for Century Farms.

I am enclosing 35¢
to defray cost of mailing.

I regret we have been
slow in this acknowledgment, but we
have had serious illness in our family.

Sincerely yours,
Elizabeth Mendenhall
(Mrs. Harold Mendenhall)

Rec'd 35¢
11/25/58 ✓

Modern Techniques 'Lift' Century Farm

Sept 4, 1959

The same place, some of the same buildings, some of the same products from the land—but what what a difference there is between the Harold Mendenhall ranch and the farm that Harold's maternal great-grandfather, Charles E. Fendall, settled 100 years ago in the Willamina Creek valley just north of Willamina in Yamhill County.

The difference is that, while the Fendalls and Mendenhalls down through the years wore out the land as they used it over and over for the same crops, Harold is restoring it through modern land use methods.

It's the story so typical of agriculture everywhere. Harold credits legumes and, to some extent, irrigation and fertilizer for the fact that his 181 acres, all from the original donation land claim, are so productive of feed for his cattle and sheep herds.

And Hard Work

He could also credit another ingredient that was obviously added judging from his heavily-muscled arms and shoulders—hard work. He and his brother, Glen E., who from 1945 until this year shared in rebuilding the farm, had to put a lot of sweat into their family farm to make it what it is today.

This is not to say that great-grandfather Charles E. Fendall, grandfather Riley Yates Fendall and father Claude E. Mendenhall

and the other Mendenhall brothers didn't do their best with what they had. It's just that techniques weren't refined then as they are now.

Charles E. had no picnic when he settled his 325.86 acres in the little valley snuggled into the Coast Range. The winter of 1860 was the worst in known history for the area and he lost all his livestock that he had painfully driven all the way from Kentucky.

He Built a Barn

Charles E. learned a real lesson from that, apparently, because he put up a barn that was a barn. In fact, it still is. Harold and his 17-year-old son, Mike, have been tearing out portions of it to put in a concrete floor and possibly to expand it. It's all they can do to take it apart.

The framework doesn't have a nail in it. Huge, almost knot-free timbers 12x12 and over 40 feet long are mortised together and pegged so tightly that when the building jack lifts one, others clear across the barn come up, too.

The few spikes, used for flooring, are about 6 inches long, square and tapered from head to a blunt point and they're harder to pull than teeth.

Up on the hill, 4 houses have been built around Charles E.'s old fireplace stone. Two were lost by fire and the 3rd has been remodeled by Harold.

Rangeland Limited

One of the reasons Harold and Glen, who bought another place this year, had to practice good farming was because their rangeland was limited to their own property.

In earlier days, cattle and sheep could range as far as they wanted. When the feed ran out or was choked by brush, they simply moved on.

Harold and Glen had the place seeded by airplane and now the

property is lush.

Harold grows alfalfa mostly, both as a feed but also as a land restorer. He also grows oats and

barley, some for livestock feed. Most of the remaining acreage from the original claim is farmed by Harold's brother, Elvin.

'Century Farm' Soil Testing Stimulates Interest in Practice

By LOUIS H. GROSS
Yamhill County Extension Agent

Analyses of soil samples taken from century farms suggest one very conclusive thought. Soil tests are definitely desirable to determine a need for phosphorous, potash and lime on any and all soils before wise recommendation of the needs of these soils can be made.

Soil tests taken on five century farms present individuality but one thing seems quite consistent. Potash in the soil has been consistently very high on soil samples taken from portions of these farms where the land was still in oak grubs, native pasture, or perhaps a fence row that had been located in that location for a long time.

In most instances the potash content is still high enough even on the farmed portion of the area that it will not give additional response from its use. In fact, one out of the five farm tests have a soil with deficient potash.

This trend toward diminishing potassium plant food means that sometime in the future it will be necessary to apply potash to more crops to get the maximum returns.

Had Strawberries

In one instance, on the Russell May farm, Dayton, the land had been growing strawberries sometime in the past. To strawberries are added fertilizers containing potassium. The Russell May farm was once a poultry farm and large quantities of poultry manure have been applied to the land through the years. In this instance the potassium quantity was higher than on the native portion of that farm. This also was true in regards to the phosphorous content of the soil. It was considerably higher on the land that had been farmed for these many years than it was in the native pasture land.

When it came to the soil pH, the story was different. The calcium content had been lowered and the acidity was greater than on the native portion of the farm.

The soils in Yamhill county that originated on the hills have a natural low phosphorous content. This is true in all of the soil tests that were taken with the exception of one area on the Blanche Handley farm where livestock had congregated in the shade of some oak trees for many years. In this case, apparently residue from the livestock droppings had increased the phosphorous content of that soil and in this instance phosphorous is much higher than in the cropped portion of her farm.

High in PH

On the Blanche Handley farm one field turned up high in pH. The record showed this field had grown alfalfa. Before the alfalfa had been planted lime would have been added to the soil. Evidence of this shows up in the soil test.

There was a little difference between the old and the new on two farms. One was the C. F. Laughlin farm of Yamhill. There the acidity of both the old and the new were very similar. The lime requirement was similar. The phosphorous content was low and the potassium

content was high. It was noted that the total base was higher, however, on the land which was newly cleared and had been farmed a very short time. The organic matter very high on a field of Ward Mendenhall, Willamina. Ward has been growing legumes quite consistently and perhaps this accounts for the high organic matter in his soils.

Organic Matter

In regard to organic matter a field on the Leonard Goodrich farm which is near the farm buildings is also very high in organic matter and it was reported by Leonard Goodrich that this farm had received considerable barnyard manure through the years. The same field is also high in phosphorous and high in potassium. However, the soil pH was no different than in the extreme western portion of the farm where manure probably was used very sparingly through the year. This because of the distance from the farm buildings and as it is true on most Oregon farms, there is not enough barnyard manure to cover all soils on the farm.

The portion of the Ray and Alice Williams farm, Carlton, which is a century farm is located about two miles from their home dairy farm. This particular 60 acres has not received any barnyard manure through the years and showed the extreme opposite of a field located near the farm buildings of Leonard Goodrich. Phosphorous content is low; pH of the soil very low. However, the organic matter was more on an average with other farms.

This analysis on century farms will no doubt make all farmers show a keener interest in the productivity of their soil and through soil tests and management follow up attempt to improve the fertility of their soils.

Neuberger Seeks Word On Poultry

Washington — Sen. Richard L. Neuberger is seeking views of Oregon egg and broiler producers on methods of dealing with the current depression in their industry.

The Oregon senator said he plans to submit answers to his letters to a House subcommittee which will hold hearings June 17 and 18 on programs to aid egg and chicken farmers.

"Most of the egg producers and poultry raisers in my state cannot afford either the time or the money to make a trip to Washington to present their individual views," Neuberger said. "Therefore, I plan to submit a resume of the responses which I receive in order that the subcommittee members will have a chance to study the comments of these men and women who depend on the poultry industry for a living."

Neuberger suggested that consideration be given to increased use of poultry products in the school lunch and welfare program, federal purchase of shell eggs and cooperative marketing agreements among producers.