

CFR 1199

Robert & Lenore Johnson

Oregon Century Farm & Ranch Program Application

Date: April 7, 2013

Type of designation (*please check*) ☐ Century Farm ☒ Century Ranch

Legal owner / Applicant name: Robert S. Johnson and Lenore J. Johnson

Farm or Ranch Name: Johnson Ranch

Mailing address of Legal Owner / Applicant: Robert S. Johnson, [Redacted for Privacy] and
Lenore J. ("Nornie") [Redacted for Privacy]

Telephone: [Redacted for Privacy] E-mail address: [Redacted for Privacy]

Contact name (if different than legal owner) n.a.

Mailing address of contact: n.a.

Contact telephone: n.a. E-mail address: n.a.

Location of farm or ranch (which is the subject of this application):

County: Wheeler

Distance: adjacent to and partially in Fossil, Oregon

Townships: 6 and 7 South Range: 21 East Sections: 32 and 5 respectively

Address or physical location of the farm or ranch (which is subject of this application):

[Redacted for Privacy]

GPS (Global Positioning System) Coordinates, if known: n.a.

Please attach a map or drawing showing the location of the eligible property within the context of the family farm or ranch.

(Continue application on next page)

Oregon Century Farm & Ranch Program Application - Continued

Founder(s):

Original family owner(s) or founder(s): Charles A. Johnson and Matty D. Johnson

Date (year) this farm or ranch was acquired by founder(s): April 7, 1913
(Attach verifying documentation. See Application Qualification #7)

Who farms or ranches the land today? Robert S. Johnson and Nornie Johnson, along with the Rietmann family and crew.

Relationship of applicant to original owner. Clearly explain lineage from original ownership documents to current applicant. (See *Application Qualification #7*)

Charles A. Johnson to Matty Johnson 1963 Probate

Charles W. Johnson

Floyd S. Johnson

James D. Johnson

James D. Johnson to Matty Johnson 1973 Probate

Charles W. Johnson to Floyd Johnson 1972 Bargain and Sale Deed

Matty Johnson to Floyd Johnson 1973 Quitclaim Deed

Floyd S. Johnson to Floyd S. Johnson and Lenore J. Johnson, Husband and Wife, each ½ interest as Tenants in Common 2005 Warranty Deed

Robert S. Johnson as personal representative of the Estate of Floyd S. Johnson to Lenore J. Johnson, Life Estate, remainder to Robert S. Johnson ½ interest 2009 Personal Representative's Corrective Deed

If the farm or ranch has ever been rented or leased, please explain the owner's role in this relationship. For example, is the owner actively involved in the management of the land?

The ranch has been leased for grazing on an AUM basis with the owners continuing to own cows and actively be involved in the management of the ranch.

History of buildings:

Are any of the original buildings still in use? ☒ Yes ☐ No

When was the first house built? If it is still in use, describe the changes that have been made.

The first house was built prior to 1913 and is still in use. The house has been remodeled several times with the biggest change being additions of a kitchen, bathroom and laundry room to the original locally made brick house.

When was the first barn built? Is it still standing? There are 2 barns on the property. The barn nearest the house was likely the first barn built and it is still standing. I am not sure the date that this barn was constructed.

When were other structures built (examples: silos, machine shops, coops, smokehouses, dryers, etc.). Describe the changes that have been made. The slaughter house, machine shed, granary, and chicken coop were all built during the early days of the ranch 1913-1930. A metal machine shed was added in the 1980's. Not many changes have been made to these buildings, except for modifying the barns for modern haying equipment.

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Oregon Century Farm & Ranch Program Application – Continued

Are any of the buildings listed on the National Register of Historic Places? ☐ Yes ☒ No

If, “yes”, please describe and note the listed name of the property here:

History of crops or livestock raised on farm or ranch:

What were the early crops or livestock? Sheep, cattle, pigs, grain and hay

How many acres were included in original farm or ranch? 212.53 acres

How did the crops / livestock / use of farm or ranch change over the years?

Went from 2 year old steer production to yearling calves. Phased out sheep, wheat, and hay production.

What are crops / livestock raised on the subject farm or ranch today? Currently produces pasture, timber, conservation uses and cattle.

How many acres does the subject farm or ranch include today? 2941.42 acres

How many acres are in agricultural use today? All

(Continue application on next page)

Oregon Century Farm & Ranch Program Application – Continued

The family:

How many generations live on the farm or ranch today? one

List names and birth years: Lenore J. (“Nornie”) Johnson, 1934

Submit two or three pages of family history narrative, including, but not limited to generational transfers of the farm or ranch. Please also submit historical & current photos of the property & family, if available. Digital format photos (at highest resolution [300 dpi]) are particularly desirable, so that they may be used in publications, the CF&R Program Database or the web site. Submitted information, including photos, will be deposited in the OSU Libraries – Special Collections & Archives Research Center for future reference. Please send digital photos included with your application to cfr@oregonfb.org by **May 1**.

Type of information to include in your family history narrative:

- Where founder(s) may have moved from to farm or ranch
- Significant events in the family (births, deaths, marriages, etc.)
- Any major changes to operations (methods of production, etc.)
- Additional information on crops, buildings, other changes from the original farm or ranch

(Continue application on next page)

Oregon Century Farm & Ranch Program
Oregon Agricultural Education Foundation
3415 Commercial Street SE, Salem, OR 97302
503-400-7884 or cfr@oregonfb.org

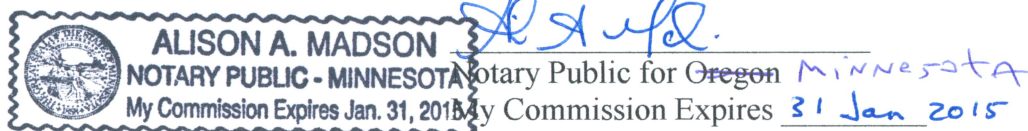
I, Robert S. Johnson,
hereby affirm and declare that the farm or ranch which I own at Redacted for Privacy




Signature of Owner
 Date

State of Minnesota County of Ramsey

In Testimony Whereof, I have set my hand and affixed my official seal the day and year last above written.



Application Fee (includes one certificate & roadside sign, Note \$50 of this fee is nonrefundable) \$ 250.00

Additional Signs (\$200 each)

Total Enclosed \$

Date Received _____

Approved? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Authorization _____
Oregon Century Farm & Ranch Program Coordinator

Oregon Century Farm & Ranch Program
Oregon Agricultural Education Foundation
 3415 Commercial Street SE, Salem, OR 97302
 503-400-7884 or cfr@oregonfb.org

Johnson Century Ranch Narrative - Johnson Ranch Fossil, Oregon established April 7, 1913 by Charles Alexander Johnson. Written by Robert S. Johnson April 7, 2013

On April 7, 1913 Charles Alexander ("C.A.") Johnson purchased approximately 200 acres on the outskirts of Fossil from George T. and Ella N. Angell which was the foundation of the Johnson Family's ranch in Wheeler County, Oregon. The Johnson Ranch would grow over the years to its present size of approximately 3,000 acres located in 3 different tracts (Home place, Middle Ranch/Bald Mountain and Timber pasture) all in the immediate vicinity of Fossil, Oregon.

C.A. Johnson was a native of Mountain City, Tennessee (born on September 12, 1871) to Scott and Mollie Johnson, and was raised on the family farm. Mountain City is located in Johnson County, TN near the North Carolina border which is an area from which many early Wheeler County families migrated. While residing in Tennessee, C.A. farmed and raised livestock, and during the winter months was a school teacher.

In April 1902, C.A. left Tennessee, due to health reasons, and came to Oregon by train. He went to work for R.R. Keyes at Richmond, Oregon in the livestock raising business for several years. In the fall of 1905 C.A. went into the ranching business for himself which he pursued until the fall of 1911 when he returned to Tennessee. In the spring of 1912 C.A. made his way back to Oregon and re-entered the ranching business.

On Thanksgiving Day 1912 C.A. married Matty D. Duff a native of Ben Hur, Virginia (born on March 12, 1888) which is located near C.A.'s home of Mountain City, TN. Matty was also a school teacher who had taught school at Richmond, Oregon. C.A. then purchased the Fossil Ranch in 1913 where C.A. and Matty raised 3 children, Charles W. Johnson, Floyd S. Johnson, and James D. Johnson. A fourth son named Joseph E. Johnson died as a child.

On the ranch at Fossil, C.A. raised cattle, sheep, grain and hay. As was the custom at that time Matty, with the help of the children, raised a garden, pigs, chickens, and milked a cow. On the ranch property there remains a large slaughter house which likely was used for commercial slaughtering.

C.A. also had a second career serving as Sheriff of Wheeler County from August 1921 to January 1935. My father, Floyd Johnson spoke of many weekends on which C.A. would saddle his horse and ride in the hills among his cattle happy to be outside after a week at the Sheriff's office. The Sheriff's job with its steady salary allowed C.A. to expand the ranch during the hard times of the Great Depression of the 1930's. C.A. added most of the additional property to the ranch in the 1920's and 1930's. C.A.'s Sheriff's job also yielded confiscated liquor during the prohibition years which my father remembers sampling prior to its destruction.

In the spring of 1937 C.A., Matty and James D. ("Jimmy") Johnson moved to The Dalles. For the rest of C.A.'s life, he divided his time between The Dalles and the ranch at Fossil. C.A. died in The Dalles Oregon on December 20, 1952 at the age of 81. Jimmy Johnson died at The Dalles in 1971, and Matty Johnson died at The Dalles in 1980. Charles W. Johnson pursued careers away from the ranch, primarily in the lumber business, and died in California in 1995 just as he was in the process of retiring in his hometown of Fossil.

The Johnson family move to The Dalles began the era of my father (Floyd S. Johnson) operating the ranch. Floyd was born July 22, 1914 on the ranch at Fossil. Floyd grew up on the ranch and due to his

father's role as sheriff began working on the ranch at an early age. Floyd graduated from Wheeler County High School in 1932. Floyd's passion from a very young age was anything to do with the ranch and cattle. He pursued these interests all his life, never leaving the ranch for any significant amount of time.

During the years from his early 20's to the time of C.A.'s death in 1952 Floyd raised hay, some sheep, and grain and sold 2 year old steers. My father was not one to reminisce very often, but did speak of trailing cattle from Fossil to the railroad in Condon which was a two-day 20 mile drive. Floyd also spoke about shocking bundles, hauling bundles and winter feeding cattle out of horse drawn wagons and sleds, and farming with horse drawn implements. He also remembered Native Americans coming through the area gathering wool off the barbed wire fences. Another fond memory Floyd shared was riding on his brother Charles' Indian motor cycle to the Pendleton Round-Up.

In the 1950's Floyd assumed sole control of the ranch operations with the death of his father in 1952. In 1953 Lenore-Jeanne ("Nornie") Burke arrived in Fossil from San Francisco, California to visit her mother. Nornie showed horses in San Francisco and met Floyd through their mutual interest in horses. Nornie and Floyd were married on January 13, 1954. Nornie and Floyd have one son, Robert, who was born in 1956.

Over the next decades land was added to the ranch. The largest acquisition was the Oscar Thomas place in 1953. Floyd also sold the Black Butte pasture which is a mountain overlooking the Town of Fossil. Floyd switched the cattle operation from the sale of two year old steers to a cow yearling calf operation. Floyd calved cows at the middle ranch and heifers at the home place. In the summer Floyd put up alfalfa and grain hay, and at times sold small quantities of wheat. Pine and fir timber sales from the Timber pasture added to family income, and aided in the purchase of additional land.

Nornie supplemented ranch income by working in a doctor's office and as a bookkeeper. Nornie also played and continues to play a role in the community of Fossil in many local organizations including St. Catherine's Church, Wheeler County Fair, animal rescue foundation, and the school, home health and library boards. Floyd was involved in community activities including farm and ranch organizations, the I.O.O.F and Elks. Robert during his youth and through college helped on the ranch particularly with hay hauling, juniper clearing and other miscellaneous projects.

Floyd and Nornie were interested in conservation of the land long before it was a popular concept. They always had some of the best pasture in the county because they would not overgraze. Floyd never ran more than 100 cows (Floyd and Nornie favored the Hereford breed, but moved to Hereford/Angus cross breed cattle later in their ranching careers). Floyd was active with the government conservation programs such as ASCS and served as a county committee member. Floyd and Nornie participated in the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program to preserve lands along the creeks by fencing and planting trees and other cover. They also participated and continue to participate in other range conservation and enhancement programs.

As Floyd advanced into his 70's and 80' he continued ranching. He was an extremely optimistic person who was buying new equipment when most folks were retiring. However, in 1993 he had sold part of his cows, and was approached by Van and Tom Rietmann of Ajax in Gilliam County to rent some pasture. The Rietmann's had been buying calves from Floyd for years. The relationship was such that frequently the cattle were bought sight unseen in that Van trusted the quality of the calves, and Floyd trusted the fairness of the price. Since 1993 the Rietmann family has been renting pasture and later wintering the

Johnson cattle at their ranch. Tom and his son Jacob have been very involved in operation of the Johnson ranch and were with Floyd the day before he died. Floyd died in the same room that he was born in on September 23, 2007 at the age of 93 years. At Floyd's memorial service Tom Rietmann summed up Floyd's life with the following: "He took good care of the land that he loved, provided for his family, and cared well for his corner of the universe."

On this date of the 100th anniversary of the Johnson Ranch, Nornie Johnson continues to reside on and actively manages the ranch. Nornie and her son Robert, who currently resides in Minnesota, presently own the ranch and make the management decisions jointly. Tom Rietmann continues to bring his cattle to pasture, and winters the Johnson cattle. Currently the ranch is used for pasture, timber, cattle and conservation with no hay or wheat production.

For the future of the Johnson Ranch, Nornie and Robert plan to operate as they currently are in cooperation with the Rietmann family. Robert who is a lawyer, and has made his career in the land and legal areas of the energy and mining industries plans to, with his wife Pamela, spend time on and improve the ranch during his retirement years. Robert married Pamela Bauman of Condon, Oregon in 1985, and they have two grown daughters. Robert and Pamela's daughters have continued the family interest in education as Alexandra of San Diego, California is a Client Program Manager at Mitchell International, and an adjunct business professor at Point Loma Nazarene University, and Grace is a special education teacher in the Tucson Unified School District in Tucson, Arizona.

INDEXED

George T. Angell et ux. 0

to 0 Filed for record April 7th, 1913, at 4-20 o'clock P. M.

Charles A. Johnson 0

Scott Sasser, County Clerk

THIS INDENTURE WITNESSETH, That George T. Angell and Ella N. Angell his wife, for the consideration of the sum of Sixty five hundred Dollars to them paid, have bargained and sold, and by these presents do bargain, sell and convey unto Charles A. Johnson the following described premises, to-wit:

The Southwest quarter of section thirty two and all that part of the Southeast quarter of the Northwest quarter of said section thirty two, bounded and described as follows: Commencing at the center of said section thirty-two; running thence North along the quarter section line 14.25 chains to the county road; thence along said county road North 64 degrees West 7.88 chains; thence South to the quarter section line eighteen chains; thence East on the quarter section line 7.0175 chains to the place of beginning, containing 11.36 acres more or less out of said forty. All said above described lands being in township six South of range Twenty-one East, W. M. Also the Lot numbered four of section five in township seven South Range twenty one East, W. M..

Containing in all 212.53 acres; and situated in Wheeler County, Oregon.

TO HAVE AND TO HOLD the said premises, with their appurtenances, unto the said Charles A. Johnson his heirs and assigns forever.

And the said George T. Angell and Ella N. Angell do hereby covenant to and with the said Charles A. Johnson his heirs and assigns, that they are the owners in fee simple of said premises; that they are free from all encumbrances except a mortgage of \$2000. to J. A. Chapman and that they will warrant and defend the same from all lawful claims whatsoever except the said mortgage which the grantee assumes and agrees to pay.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF we have hereunto set our hands and seals this 7th day of April,

A . D. 1913.

Executed and delivered in
the presence of

George T. Angell (SEAL)
Ella N. Angell (SEAL)

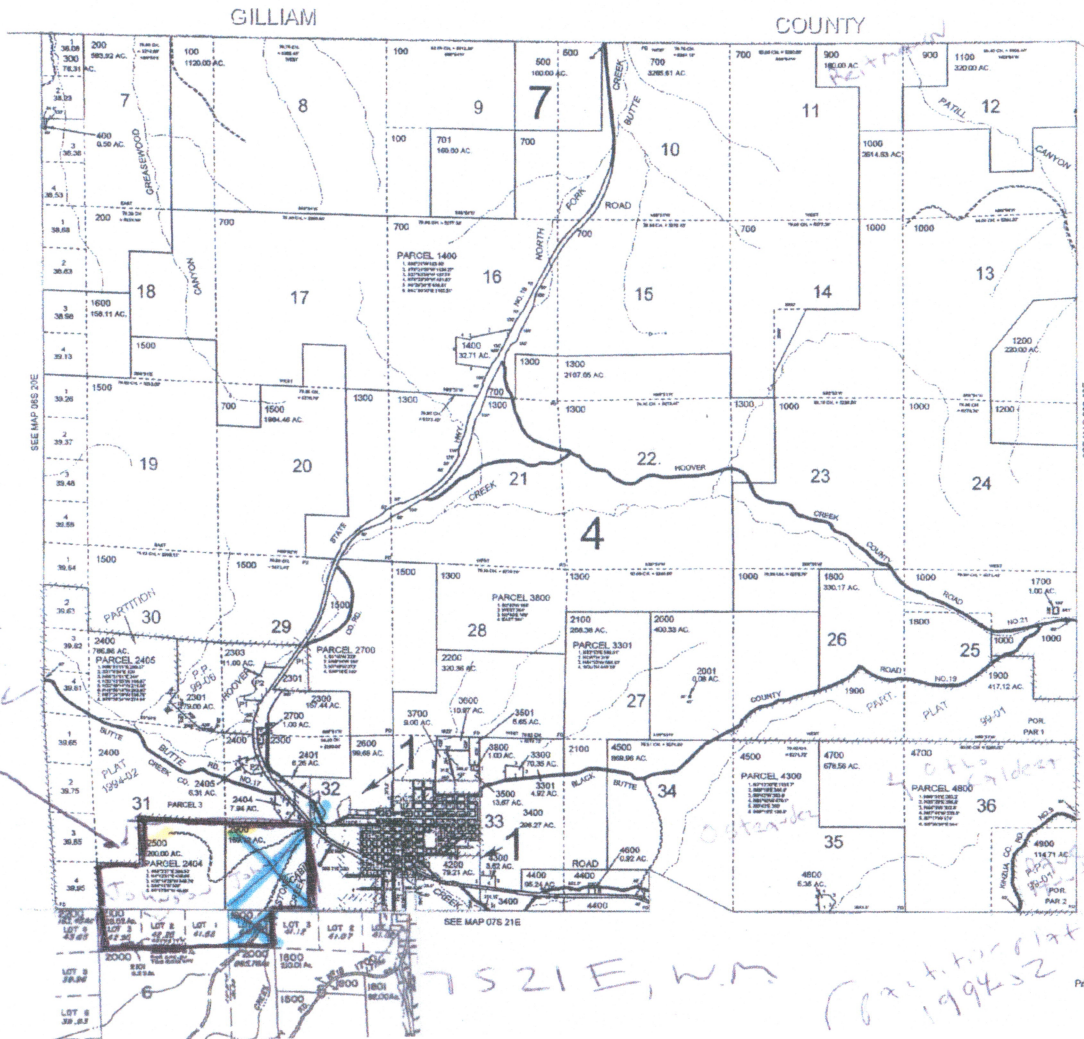
H. H. Hendricks
R. H. Hendricks

State of Oregon,
County of Wheeler--ss.

On this, the 7th day of April, A. D. 1913 personally came before me a Notary Public in and for the said county and state, the within named George T. Angell and Ella N. Angell his wife, to me personally known to be the identical persons described

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CANCELLED NO.
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3000 New 3200
3900 New 4100
4701
4901

RECEIVED
JAN 28 2004
By _____



7521 E, W.M.

Execution at
199452



Johnson Ranch, home place 2013



Johnson Ranch home place slaughter house
2013



Sheriff C.A. Johnson participating in the
Wheeler County Fair Parade 1920's

Floyd and Nornie Johnson 1950's





Floyd Johnson 1930's



Floyd Johnson, baling hay 1986

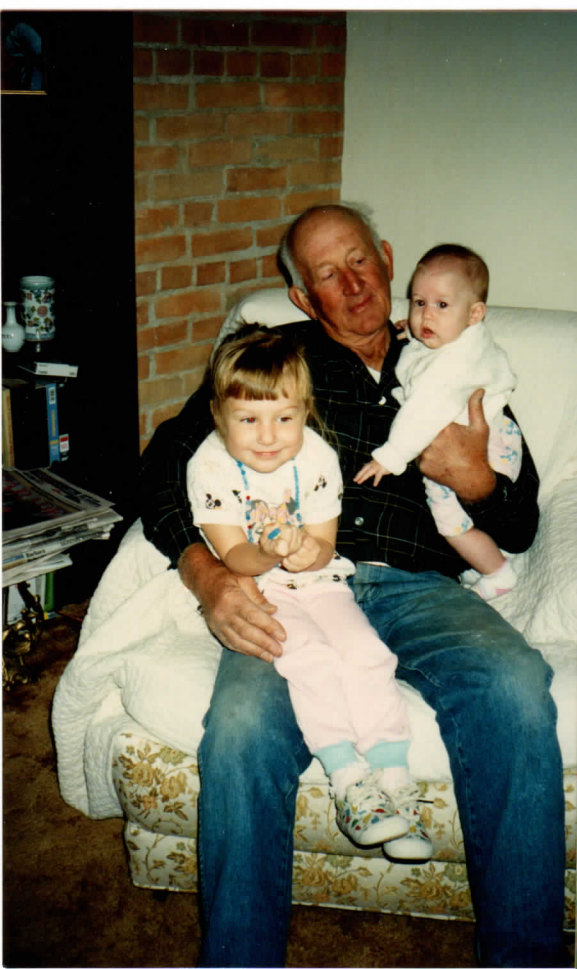


Floyd and Nornie Johnson with their son Robert
at the ranch house 1962



Johnson Ranch House 2013

Floyd Johnson with granddaughters,
Alexandra and Grace 1990



Alexandra and Grace bottle feeding a
calf 1997



Robert, Pamela, Alexandra and Grace Johnson
2010