

OREGON CENTURY FARM & RANCH PROGRAM  
2018 Applicant Approval Checklist

oral history?

Name of applicant Bart, Terry & Kurt Mizee

Name of Farm or Ranch Tilla-Bay Farms One County Redacted For Privacy

Notarized  yes \_\_\_ no Posted by May 1  yes \_\_\_ no \$250 Application  yes \_\_\_ no

Other fees (additional certificates, @ \$20 ea.), amount \$ 250 20  
Total fees pd. \$ 270 1 extra cert

1. Applicant is legal owner  yes \_\_\_ no other \_\_\_

2. 100 years of continuous operation by same family  yes \_\_\_ no

Comments \_\_\_\_\_

3. Not less than \$1,000 gross income per year for three out of last five years  yes \_\_\_ no

Comments \_\_\_\_\_

4. Living on or actively managing and directing the farming or ranching activity on the land  yes \_\_\_ no

Comments \_\_\_\_\_

5. Line of ownership from original settler or buyer through children, siblings, nephews or nieces. Adopted children will be recognized equally with other descendants  yes \_\_\_ no

6. Official form used with all questions answered completely, including narrative  yes \_\_\_ no

Comments \_\_\_\_\_

7. Documentation showing the date of earliest ownership (Donation Land Claim, Deed of Sale, Homestead Certificate, Family Bible, diary entry, or correspondence)  yes \_\_\_ no

Comments \_\_\_\_\_

Photos included with application  yes \_\_\_ no Sent digital photos \_\_\_ yes  no

Additional information needed from applicant Deq photos; missing map of property

Concerns or questions \_\_\_\_\_

Application Approval/Reviewer Notes Identification of Family Stories for Narratives:

Reviewer #1: Initials OSW

Notes: Is there a connection to Wilsonview Dairy? Josi last name connection. Amazing story. I'm sorry for the devastating loss. Farmers are so amazingly resilient.

Reviewer #2: Initials: MFBaHisker

Notes: coherent family tracing + story  
good success

Reviewer #3: Initials: RA

\* GOOD ORAL HISTORY CANDIDATE

Notes: looks great for me!

Reviewer #4: Initials: \_\_\_\_\_

Notes:

Reviewer #5: Initials: \_\_\_\_\_

Notes:

Provide at meeting:

- Blank copies of applications
- Copies of drafted narratives sent on hand
- Print digital pictures for review if only send digital
- Model "Timeline" added to application materials for applicants \* This was not done, will do in 2016



The Josi Farm, The Fenk Farm and The Mizee Farm all have been names of what is now known as Tilla-Bay Farms, Inc.

The farm, just a mile west of Tillamook, began in May 1877, when U.S. President Rutherford B. Hays granted "Homestead Certificate #863" to Marcus Talmage. The property, which sits at the upper end of Tillamook Bay, passed through many other owners until Gotfried and Fred Josi purchased it in 1918. They paid \$14,500 for lots 9, 10 and 11 — a total of 73 acres.

Gotfried and Fred divided the property and each built a barn and a house on his respective parcel. In 1930, Fred traveled back to his home country, Switzerland, to look for a bride. He met and married Lina Schactler, who returned to Tillamook with him. In 1932, their daughter, Ruth Anne Josi, was born. An only child, Ruth grew up working on the farm. They farmed with their two horses, Prince and Dolly, chickens, cows, cats and of course one or two farm dogs.

While she was still in school, Ruth met a handsome young man named Rudolph John Fenk Jr. He was a farm boy and drove a hay truck for the Tillamook County Creamery Association (TCCA). However, World War II sent their lives in different directions. When he turned 18, Rudolph (Rudy) enlisted in the U.S. Navy and was part of the Pacific fleet as a photographer from 1944-46, taking amazing photos he still shares today.

After the war, Rudy returned to Tillamook and was back to driving hay truck for TCCA. He delivered a load of hay to the Josi Farm, and a very attractive girl, Ruth, was needed to help unload that hay. And THAT was the beginning of how the Josi Farm became the Fenk Farm.

Ruth and Rudy were married on June 23, 1950, right after Ruth graduated from high school. Rudy and Ruth purchased the farm from her parents in 1951 for \$24,000. At the time the farm consisted of 34 acres and they milked about 24 cows. Rudy continued to drive truck to help make ends meet, while Ruth milked the cows and did the farm chores. Rudy pitched in as soon as he got home, making for long hard days that stretched into years. Rudy drove truck — hay truck to cheese truck to milk tanker — for close to 20 years, all for TCCA.

On May 18, 1951, Cathlina Marie was born, followed 11 months later on April 18, 1952 by Terry Anne. Then 11 years later, Steven Rudolph completed their family on October 3, 1963.

The low-lying farmland, which sits at the confluence of the Tillamook and Trask rivers, was prone to flooding. So in 1957, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers built a levee surrounding a total of 450 acres that included the farm. This man-made dike kept the tides and rain-induced floodwaters at bay and improved farming practices.

In 1960 Rudy and Ruth built the first (raised?) milking parlor, as well as the first free-stall cow housing in Tillamook County. Automatic take-offs were added to the milking machines in 1975. What great back-saving inventions!



In 1963, Rudy and Ruth purchased an additional adjoining 47 acres for \$46,000. It was in 1968 that they purchased the last adjoining piece for \$43,000. Finally, the original property purchased by the Josi's in 1918 was one farm again, 50 years later.

They were now milking close to 140 cows. The crew consisted of Rudy, Ruth, Terry, Cathy and one hired man. The girls fed calves in the morning before school and helped finish up the evening milking after school. Making sure they didn't smell "like the barn" going to school was the real challenge. Making hay, cutting weeds, driving tractor (sometimes in a bathing suit to get a tan) were a huge part of the kids' childhood. "We were indeed a family farm."

When Terry was a freshman at Tillamook High School, she met a very handsome and nice senior named Bart Mizze, who lived in Netarts. And THAT is the beginning of how the Fenk Farm became the Mizze Farm.

Terry and Bart married on November 14, 1970, following Terry's graduation from high school. Terry went to cosmetology school and Bart had become a barber. They lived and worked in Beaverton, Ore., and Terry was pretty pleased with the situation. She was grateful she hadn't married a farmer. She knew what kind of hours they put in, not to mention being tied down to the farm and the job. Bart was less enamored with the situation; he disliked being inside all day. He decided he would like to be a dairyman. So after a six-week backpacking trip to Europe they moved home for a short time to give farming a try. They then moved to Utah, so Bart could attend Utah State, taking a herdsman course. While Bart went to school, working both before and after school farming, Terry cut, curled and permed hair.

While in Utah, on November 12, 1974, Bart and Terry added Chad Jason to their family. When Chad was one, and Bart was finished with school, Bart, Terry and Chad moved back to the farm in Tillamook. Bart was a hard and conscientious worker and Rudy was glad for the help, handing over much of the day-to-day farming decisions. On May 3, 1977, Bart and Terry were blessed with their second son, Kurt Ryan: the next generation dairy farmer had arrived! On August 19, 1980, Bart and Terry's daughter, Leisha Anne, joined the family. She would later become the 1999 Oregon Dairy Princess Ambassador.

The Fenk-Mizze Farm became Tilla-Bay Farms, Inc. in 1982, and Terry and Bart began purchasing stock from Terry's parents. Also that year, Rudy and Ruth purchased an additional 46 acres to house heifers and dry cows further up the Trask River, as the milking herd grew to about 200. In 1984, the Fenk-Mizze Family were named Oregon Farm Family of the Year. What an honor to be presented with this award at the Oregon State Fair! We even got to be on television!

While all three Mizze kids were involved in 4-H and had chores on the farm, Kurt was the natural farmer. When Kurt was a freshman in high school he asked Wendy Kastner to homecoming. And THAT was the beginning of the fourth generation of farmers on Tilla-Bay Farms.

In 1999, Kurt graduated from Oregon State University with a degree in Dairy Science while Wendy earned a degree in business from Linfield College. In July of that summer, Kurt and Wendy were married. In farm boy fashion, he drove off from the church with his bride in a John Deere Tractor.

On October 23, 2002, they added sweet Shelby Lynn to their family. Ryan Patrick arrived, to their delight, on September 4, 2005. Wendy's mothering skills and kindness toward others were much to be admired. Little Shelby, like her mom, was pretty, smart and kind. She was an excellent dancer with a contagious giggle. The family was devastated with the loss of Wendy and Shelby in an automobile accident in February of 2011. Strong faith and the support of extended family and friends sustains the family still.

Because Kurt became a single dad to Ryan, some changes were needed to make day-to-day farming more flexible. In December of 2011, Kurt, Bart and Rudy installed three Lely milking robots — the first in the Western United States. Kurt became the next in line to begin the purchase of stock in Tilla-Bay Farms.

Wendy Stevens came in to Kurt and Ryan's life in 2013, with her two pretty daughters, Megan and Kennedy. Kurt and Wendy were married in October of 2014. Kurt has been blessed with a beautiful family who are a great support on the farm, and in he and Ryan's life.

Cathy Fenk went on to marry and live in North Carolina with her husband Jim Froelich. Her only daughter, Janae, also lives in North Carolina.

Steve Fenk graduated from Oregon State University and is the Associate Athletic Director for Communication at Oregon State. He lives in Corvallis, Ore.

Bart and Terry's other son, Chad, graduated from the University of Oregon and then earned his MBA from Kellogg at Northwestern University in Chicago. He now lives in New Jersey and is the Director of Digital Marketing for Johnson & Johnson. He and Joanna Foster married in September of 2013 and are expecting their first child, Stella, on July 1, 2018.

Leisha has a degree from Mt. Hood Community College and is a real estate broker for Cascade Sotheby's International Realty in Manzanita, Ore. She married Todd Riggert and on January 4, 2002, had a smart, talented and beautiful daughter, Josephine 'Josi' Anne.

The 1920's farmhouse that came with the property that was purchased in 1963, is where Bart and Terry raised their family and still live. As of 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 house Ruth was born in and where they lived and raised their children.



Bart continues to farm alongside Kurt, making farming decisions and improvements together. Ryan is at the farm everyday when he is not at school. He is happy to show you 'his' farm and how milking robots work. Watching him drive tractor in the fields, it is clear, he is a farm boy at heart. 100 years later, the legacy continues.



A program of the Oregon Farm Bureau Foundation for Education



Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Oregon Century Farm & Ranch Program Application

**Type of designation** (please check one)  Century Farm  Century Ranch

**Press Contact** (please check one)  YES, both applicant & contact person (if different)

YES, Applicant only  NO

*(This give us permission to give members of the press who request it your contact information for possible articles about your farm or ranch)*

Legal owner / Applicant name Bart, Terry & Kurt Mizee

Farm or Ranch Name (this is the name used in all publicity & marketing)

Tilla-Bay Farms, Inc.

Mailing address of Legal Owner / Applicant Redacted For Privacy

Redacted For Privacy

Telephone Redacted For Privacy E-mail address Redacted For Privacy

Contact name (if different than legal owner) \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing address of contact \_\_\_\_\_

Contact telephone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

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

County Redacted For Privacy

Distance 1 mile from nearest town Tillamook

Township 1S Range 10 Section 26

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

Redacted For Privacy

Tax Map ID: 1S10260000701, 1S10230001300, 1S10260000701, 1S10260000700

## Oregon Century Farm & Ranch Program Application - Continued

GPS (Global Positioning System) Coordinates, if known \_\_\_\_\_

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

### Founder(s):

Original family owner(s) or founder(s) Fred Josi

Founder(s) prior Country or State if not Oregon Switzerland

Date (year) this farm or ranch was acquired by founder(s) May 18, 1918  
(Attach verifying documentation. See Application Qualification #7)

Who farms or ranches the land today? Bart and Kurt Mizee

Relationship of applicant to original owner. Clearly explain lineage from original ownership documents to current applicant. (See Application Qualification #7) Fred Josi to Ruth Josi-Fenk to Terry Fenk-Mizee

How many acres were included in original farm or ranch? 34

How many acres are included today in the farm or ranch? 120

How many acres are in agricultural use today? 120

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?

### History of crops or livestock raised on farm or ranch:

What were the early crops or livestock?

The early crops were: pasture grass and grass hay

The early livestock were: dairy cows, horses and chickens



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

Livestock numbers increased over the years and so did farming practices. Soil drainage and tillage, grass varieties and nutrient applications have allowed us to support about 200 mature cows and additional young stock with grass as their primary forage source.

What are crops / livestock raised on the farm or ranch today?

We have ventured into limited acres of field corn in the last few years. However, pasture grass, grazed in season or ensiled for use year round is our main forage for keeping our dairy livestock productive and content.

## Oregon Century Farm & Ranch Program Application – Continued

### 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.

There are two farm houses, one built in the 1920's and the other built in 1932. Both homes are still currently used by the owners of this farm. Both homes have been extensively remodeled. Adding garages, additional rooms, updated kitchens and more.

What years were other structures built (examples: barns, silos, machine shops, coops, smokehouses, dryers, etc.). Describe the changes that have been made to them, including any demolition.

Milking Parlor: 1960  
Free Stall Cow Bed: 1960  
Free Style Barn: 1960  
Liquid Tank: 1960 and a large tank in 1982  
Feed Storage and Covered Loose Cow Housing: 1970  
Commodity Shed: 1971  
Large Shop: 2009  
Calf Pen Expansion: 2012  
New Silage Bunk: 2013

### The family:

How many generations live on the farm or ranch today?

2

List names and birth years:

Rudy and Ruth Fenk (1926 and 1932)

Bart and Terry Mizze (1949 and 1952)

Kurt and Wendy Mizze and children (1977 and 1976 and Ryan Mizze 2005)

### **The family history narrative:**

**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.** Do *not* send original documents as they will not be returned. Digital format photos (at highest resolution [300 dpi]) are particularly desirable, so that they may be used in publications, the program's 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](mailto: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
- Any special family farm or ranch stories you'd like to share, passing on techniques, interesting characters, & family folklore

# Oregon Century Farm & Ranch Program Application

## Statement of Affirmation

I, Terry Anne Mizee Redacted For Privacy,

hereby affirm and declare that the farm or ranch which I own at Redacted For Privacy, in the County of Tillamook

has been owned by my family for at least 100 continuous years, as specified in the qualifications for the Century Farm & Ranch Program, on or before December 31 of the current calendar year. Further, I hereby affirm that this property meets all other requirements for Century Farm or Ranch honors, including that the farm or ranch has a gross income from farming or ranching activities of not less than \$1,000 per year for three out of the five years immediately preceding making this statement. I understand that the application materials will become property of the OSU Libraries – Special Collections & Archives Research Center and be made available for public use. By signing below, I understand that I am consenting to the use of both information and photographs.

Terry Anne Mizee April 30, 2018  
 Signature of Owner Date

## Certification by Notary Public

State of Oregon County of Tillamook

Be it remembered, that on this 30th day of May <sup>SAT</sup> April, 2018, before me, the undersigned, a Notary Public in and for said county and state, personally appeared the within named Terry Anne Mizee, known to me to be the identical individual described in and who executed the within instrument and acknowledged to me that Terry Anne Mizee executed the same freely and voluntarily.

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



Sara Rose Thurston  
 Notary Public for Oregon  
 My Commission Expires 09/08/2019

### For office use only

Application Fee (includes one certificate & Roadside sign, Note \$50 of this fee is non-refundable) \$ 250.00  
 Additional Certificates (\$20 each) \$ 20.00  
 Additional Signs (\$200 each) \$ 270.00  
**Total Enclosed** \$ 270.00

Date Received \_\_\_\_\_

Approved?  Yes  No

Authorization \_\_\_\_\_  
 Oregon Century Farm & Ranch Program Coordinator

**Make checks payable to: Oregon Farm Bureau Foundation for Education**



WARRANTY DEED.

P. W. Todd, and  
Susan O. Todd,  
husband and wife,

--to--

Fred Josi, and  
Gottfried Josi.

Deed Book 37 page 270. ✓  
Dated, May 17th. 1918.  
Recorded, May 18th. 1918.  
Consid. \$14,500.00.

DESCRIPTION.

Grant, bargain, sell and convey, \* \* \* all of the following bounded and described real property, situated in said Tillamook County, State of Oregon, to-wit: Commencing at the center of the intersection of the County road with a small slough and on the quarter Section line 801 feet west of the quarter section corner on the east side of Section 26, in T. 1 S. R. 10 W. Wil. Mer; Thence following the center of the small slough northwesterly to the line of mean low water mark on the Frask River slough; thence following the mean low water mark of the Frask river slough in a northerly direction to a point due east of the center of that certain dyke now there, which is about 100 feet south of the north line of section 26 aforesaid; thence west following the center of said dyke, to the mean low water line on Tillamook River; thence up Tillamook River, following the mean low water line to a point due west of the place where the dyke intersects the County road between Tillamook River, and the bend in Frask river; thence east to center of County Road; thence easterly following the center of the County road to the place of beginning; containing sixty four acres, more or less.

Covenants that said premises are free from all incumbrances.

General warranty.  
(U.S. Int. Rev. Stamps. \$14,50 affixed and cancelled.)  
Witnesses, two. Signed and sealed.

Acknowledged, May 17th. 1918, before C.W. Falmage, Notary Public,  
Tillamook County, Oregon; Seal; Regular. "My Commission expires, June 1st.  
1921."



# Oregon Century Farm & Ranch Program

*A program of the Oregon Farm Bureau Foundation for Education*

## Application Guidelines



### **Background**

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The Century Farm & Ranch Program is a nonprofit, volunteer-led program to honor farm and ranch families with century-long connections to the land and recognize Oregon's rich agricultural heritage. The program is administered through the Oregon Farm Bureau Foundation for Education and is partially funded through a partnership with the Oregon Farm Bureau, the State Historic Preservation Office, Oregon State University Libraries' Special Collections & Archives Research Center, and community members throughout Oregon.

All applications are added to the OSU Libraries' Special Collections & Archives Research Center. They provide valuable information about settlement patterns, livestock and crop choices, building design and family history. Successful applicants receive a distinctive certificate, with acknowledgement by the governor of Oregon and the director of the Oregon Department of Agriculture and metal roadside sign identifying the historical Century Farm or Century Ranch at a special awards ceremony at the Oregon State Fair.

### **Qualifications**

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1. Only the legal owner(s) of the property may apply for the Century Farm or Century Ranch status.
2. The farm or ranch must have been operated continuously in the same family for 100 years or more. A farm or ranch settled any time 100 years ago or earlier will be eligible if it meets other requirements.
3. The farm or ranch must have a gross income from farming or ranching activities of not less than \$1,000 per year for three out of the five years immediately preceding the application.
4. If living off the farm or ranch, or if the farm or ranch has ever been rented or leased, the owning family must actively manage and direct the farming or ranching activity on the land. Contact 503-400-7884 or [cfr@oregonfb.org](mailto:cfr@oregonfb.org) if you have any questions about eligibility.
5. The line of ownership from the original settler or buyer may be through children, siblings, or nephews and nieces. Adopted children will be recognized equally with other descendants.
6. Applications must be submitted on forms provided by the Century Farm and Ranch Program with all questions completed. Applicants must submit a narrative of family history, two to three pages in length that adds to the information included in the application. Copies of historical and current photographs of the farm or ranch and family are encouraged. All information, including photos, will be deposited in the OSU Libraries' – Special Collections & Archives Research Center for future reference. Please do not send in original photos and/or documents, as all items sent with your application are **NOT** returned. Please send in quality copies of documents that support your application. Applications should include 4-5 digital photos from your application and sent to [cfr@oregonfb.org](mailto:cfr@oregonfb.org) by **May 1**.
7. All applications must include verification of continuous ownership for 100 years. Acceptable forms of proof include a document (high quality photocopy) showing date of earliest ownership. This may be provided through a Donation Land Claim, Deed of Sale, or Homestead Certificate. Other records, subject to review, include a family Bible, diary entry, or correspondence.
8. Applications must be signed and certified by a Notary Public.

9. Deadline for returning applications is **May 1** of the current year and must be postmarked by midnight.

### **Researching Farm and Ranch History**

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The Oregon Century Farm & Ranch Program website has tips on gathering information about farm and ranch history. The website is located at [centuryfarm.oregonfb.org](http://centuryfarm.oregonfb.org).

### **Completing the Application**

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This application is a Word document. You can fill information in as you answer the questions. You may notice the page adjusting as you enter text. That is OK. You can also submit a completed photocopy of this form.

### **Fees**

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A \$250 fee is required with each application. This fee covers administrative costs and includes one certificate and one roadside sign. Additional certificates may be ordered at the time of application at \$20 each and roadside signs at \$200 each. Make checks payable to the **Oregon Farm Bureau Foundation for Education**.

### **Where to Send Completed Application Packets**

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Send the completed application (including the family history narrative, map and digital photos), Statement of Affirmation, your documentation, and sign and certificate order form, with fee payment, to:

**Oregon Century Farm & Ranch Program  
Oregon Farm Bureau Foundation for Education  
1320 Capitol St. NE, Suite 200  
Salem, OR 97301**

Do *not* send original documents, as they will not be returned. We recommend that you make a copy of your completed application before mailing. It makes a wonderful single source of farm information for years to come.

### **Review Process and Notification**

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All applications are checked for completeness by the program coordinator and reviewed by the Program Board. All applicants will be notified about their status by July 1.

### **Honoring Ceremony**

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Successful applicants, their families and neighbors are invited to a special ceremony at the Oregon State Fair to receive the certificate. The certificate has the name of the farm or ranch and is suitable for framing.

### **Still Have Questions About the Program?**

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Contact: **Andréa Kuenzi, Program Coordinator**, at 503-400-7884 or [cfr@oregonfb.org](mailto:cfr@oregonfb.org)

Thank you for helping us preserve Oregon's rich agriculture heritage and the important role it plays in keeping the state a healthy and vital place for Oregon residents and visitors.

For more information about the Oregon Century Farm & Ranch Program visit [centuryfarm.oregonfb.org](http://centuryfarm.oregonfb.org).





















