

Century Farms

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The Century Farms program began in 1976 when over 5,000 certificates and farm markers were distributed across Iowa at local ceremonies. The program continued in 1977 when over 700 certificates and farm markers were distributed. Over 200 more were given in both 1978 and 1979 and ceremonies were held at the Iowa State Fair.

The program is sponsored by the Iowa Department of Agriculture and the Iowa Farm Bureau Federation and honors families which have owned Iowa farmland for 100 years or more.

We are proud to have four of these farms in our community: Goodman, Flora, White and Gray-Maxwell.

Eden

Township

Goodman Century Farm

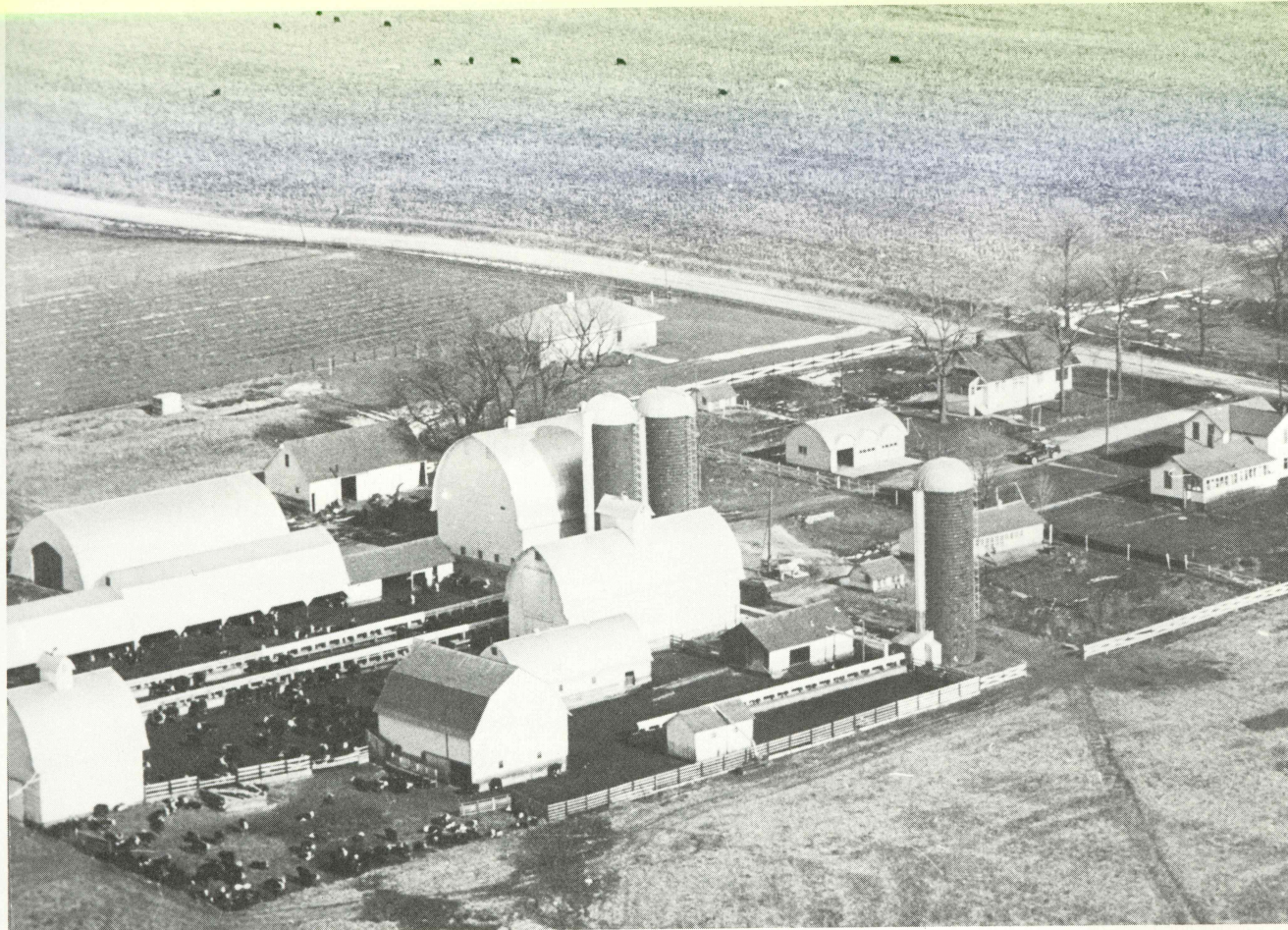
On March 21, 1863, Joseph Blink purchased the below farm from John Caveney. This farm has remained in the family since and received recognition as a Century Farm on August 19, 1980. Urban Goodman, the great-grandson of Joseph Blink, owns and resides on the farm which is located 2½ miles south of Rhodes.

Flora Century Farm

Five generations of the Jacob William and Catherine King Mills Flora family have lived on the same farm in Eden Township, Section 25, Marshall County. Jacob bought the land in 1870. The farm received a Century Farm marker during the Bicentennial Year of 1976. The Edward Flora family presently resides there.



Urban Goodman - Century Farm



White Century Farm (Photo taken in 1954).

White Century Farm

Mr. and Mrs. Harrison White came to the Edenville area in 1876, with two sons and a daughter, from Bureau County, Illinois. They settled on a farm 2½ miles east and ¾ mile south of Edenville, now known as the James N. White farm. A few years later, he retired and moved to Rhodes. His son James Ora, took over the farming operation for a period, until once again it was passed on to his son, James N. Mrs. James N. White was Vesta Fern Good of Rhodes, who passed away in 1980.

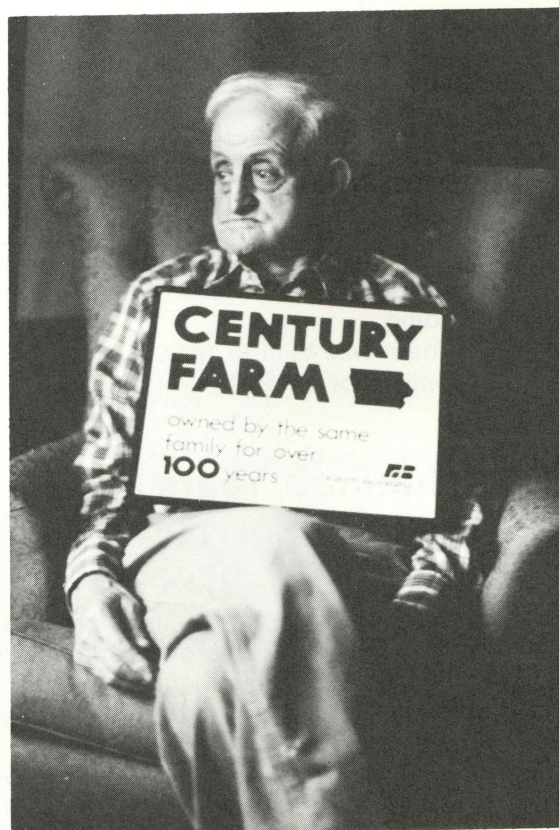
This farm was given state recognition as a Century Farm, in 1976. On April 10, 1981, a devastating tornado destroyed many buildings and silos on this farm, including a barn 105 years old.

James and his son Rex and his wife Marilyn, reside here at the present time.

*Submitted by
Rex White*



50 lb. binder twine - \$8.50; Sows - \$3.70 per hundred;
Spade - 90¢; Lantern globe - 15¢.



James N. White



This Century Farm belongs to Gladys Gray and Vern and Cecile Maxwell Jr.

Gray and Maxwell Century Farm

The above picture is of the Isaac and Emma Gray farm in 1915, 1½ miles north of Rhodes (Gladys Gray now lives here). This is the way the house looked after being built in 1867, very few changes being made up to the present time.

The Maple trees in front of the house were planted soon after Rev. Gray bought the farm in 1882 and there is one still standing.

The hip roof barn was built in 1911.

Certificate applied for in 1982.

“One Hundred Years on the Back Forty”

If we try to let our thoughts go back in time to 1883 when Edenville-Rhodes became an incorporated country village, we must think in terms of riding horses and draft horses. This was truly the day of the horse collar. This device was all important for plows, tillage tools, planters and harvesting equipment.

A century of farming takes us a full circle from one bottom walking plows to huge ten bottom plows pulled with enormous four-wheel drive tractors.

Even this mark of progress has vanished from current methods of soil tilling, to be replaced with chisel plows and thirty-two foot wide disks for the express purpose of saving the soil and reducing erosion.

The small grain harvest has also changed beyond the wildest dreams of imagination. The drudgery of cutting oats, barley and wheat with a cradle scythe and binding the bundles with the straw itself, has given way to gigantic combine with twenty-four foot wide grain platforms which can digest a one-hundred, plus, acres a day.

Husking corn by hand has become a memory and a mark of history in the annals of corn production. Today the corn combine, with a twelve row capacity, moved down the corn row at an alarming speed and shelling one hundred bushels in a matter of minutes.

Diesel powered tractors, with weather and temperature controlled cabs for the driver, have moved some farming operations into a modern world of indescribable comfort.

It is hard to imagine where the next hundred years will take us.

*Submitted by
Rex White*

Winter Memories January 24, 1927

When you turned a tap this morning you got it hot or cold as you elected.

Are you by chance old enough to remember the old wooden pump, with wooden pipes leading down to the water in the "dug well." The one with the wooden spout that stuck straight out of the side. Ever have to thaw out one of those pumps with a cast iron kettle full of boiling water in winter or prime it with a pail of water in summer? Somehow the tap in the kitchen or bathroom makes the elders think of the old wooden pump.

Or maybe you are old enough, probably not, to remember going to the spring for water. That was before the well had been dug. Maybe you can recall taking the ax and chopping holes in the ice down at the creek or the river so the cattle might drink. You may be ancient enough to remember the hole in the ground down close to the slough where you got water with a pail tied to the end of a rope. But probably not. Or it's barely possible that you hauled water for washday in a barrel from the "crick" or hauled chunks of ice up to the kitchen door in winter for laundry purposes. Turning a tap reminds you of certain ways we used to get water.



Winter of 1929

When you pulled up the furnace draft or when the jigger that tends to it along about 6 a.m. did it for you, recall the times you built morning fires new in the cookstove and the heater, did you feel the goose pimples of that time rise sympathetically with memory, did you think of sitting by the kitchen stove and holding cowhide boots, stiff as steel with frozen tallow or neatsfoot oil to thaw out over the griddle that was beginning to turn red? Did you recall lighting the lantern and poking out to feed the horses in the straw stable and call the hogs from under the strawpile? No? Then you don't recall how extraordinarily good buckwheat cakes, warmed up potatoes, ham, fried



Winter of 1929

eggs and coffee were when you went in to breakfast. Maybe you can remember how you leaped into your cotton flannel unmentionables when you threw back the blankets and the air of that sleeping room right off the north pole struck you? That's hard to forget. And this morning you threw open a register and backed up against it and took your time. And never left the house until after breakfast.

No it isn't cold nowadays. Uncle Jim was right. One reason is that it "seems not to get cold like it used to." Never gets down to forty below and like that. Then everybody, almost everybody, nowadays has warm clothing, wears it, avoids the open, "lives luxurious" as Uncle Jim says. No it isn't cold "like it used to be" when twenty below was "just nice winter weather."

Author Unknown



Winter of 1936 •