



SUSAN COMBS, COMMISSIONER

TEXAS DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURE

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FAMILY LAND HERITAGE PROGRAM SEEKS HISTORIC FARMS AND RANCHES FOR RECOGNITION

AUSTIN — Agriculture Commissioner Susan Combs announced that the Texas Department of Agriculture's Family Land Heritage Program is seeking farms and ranches for recognition by the Family Land Heritage Program, which marks its 30th anniversary this year. Since the first ceremony on Oct. 14, 1974, the program has honored almost 3,900 farms and ranches in 222 counties for being kept in continuous agricultural production by the same family

“These families have nurtured life from the land to make a future for their children, all the while making their mark in Texas history,” Combs said. “The Family Land Heritage Program honors their contributions to the settlement of the Lone Star State. It also chronicles the unique history of Texas agriculture, a proud record that otherwise might be lost forever.”

To be eligible for the program, the farm or ranch must meet these qualifications.

- The farm/ranch has to have been agriculturally productive for 100 years or more and the line of ownership traced from the first family member to the present, either through direct relatives, marriage or adoption.
- The land must fit the old 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.
- Owner(s) must be actively managing the everyday operation of the property.
- If all the land has ever been rented to someone outside of the family, it will not qualify. If only a portion was leased, and as much as 10 acres retained in the family for agricultural production with sales of at least \$50 annually, it will qualify.
- Deadline to submit applications for properties established in 1904 or before is Nov. 15, 2004.

*All TDA press
releases are also
available via the
Internet at
www.agr.state.tx.us*

Farms and ranches that qualify will be honored during the ceremony in Austin in March 2005. The history of the farm or ranch will also be chronicled in a registry. Honorees can also obtain historic farm or ranch signage for their property.

Program applications are available through TDA, county judges and on TDA's web site at www.agr.state.tx.us. For more information, contact Family Land Heritage Coordinator Melissa Blair, Texas Department of Agriculture, P.O. Box 12847, Austin, Texas 78711 or (512) 463-2631.