



## Whitman County

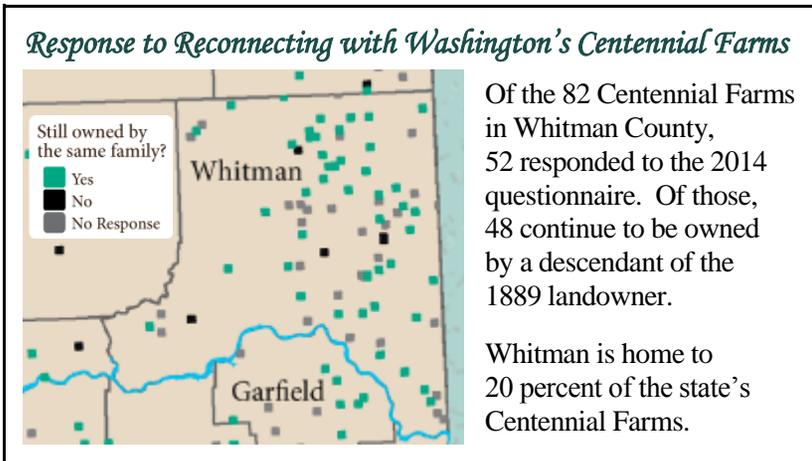
Whitman County is home to some of the most productive dryland wheat farms in the country and also to the greatest number of Washington's Centennial Farms. Settlers arriving in the 1870s and 1880s quickly discovered the productivity of the Palouse, and its reputation as a major wheat-producing region was soon established.

Whitman County has been the nation's top wheat producer every year since 1978, with production topping 30 million bushels in 2014, a relatively low-yielding year. Over the past 25 years, its wheat farms have gotten larger, changed their mix of crops, and adopted practices to reduce erosion and improve soil quality.



*Washington Association of Wheat Growers*

**The Turnbow/St. John Farm, west of Palouse, produced winter and spring wheat and barley, seed wheat, peas and alfalfa in 2014.**



### *Wheat acreage expands*

Wheat, and more wheat, is being grown in Whitman County. In 1989, wheat was harvested from 400,500 acres; in 2014, harvested acres topped 506,000, following recent record wheat prices. Meanwhile, barley production, with 44,000 acres harvested in 2014, is a quarter of its 1989 level. Overall, less acreage is being cropped: Enrollment in the Conservation Reserve Program in 2014 totaled 170,000 acres, or about 17 percent of the county's cropland, compared to 19,000 acres enrolled in 1989.

You find these facts reflected in the county's Centennial Farms. In 1989, both wheat and barley grew on every Centennial Farm. In 2014, less than half grow barley, and the favored pulse crops now includes garbanzo beans, also known as chickpeas, as well as dry peas



and lentils. Whitman County leads the nation in garbanzos, as consumers have developed a taste for hummus, a dip made from the mashed bean.

### *Farm size unchanged or larger*

Most Centennial Farms in the county reported their farm size was the same or larger in 2014 than in 1989. Of those that reported growth, most have more than doubled in size. The median size of the 48 farms is just over 1,050 acres.

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*Farm life is a wonderful way to live life and raise a family.*

KAROLYN KAYE BAILEY, JAMES BAILEY, INC. (KELLY AND SHIELDS FARMS)

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### *Sustainability efforts increase*

Following intensive cultivation for more than 100 years, concerns about erosion and soil degradation on the steep slopes of the Palouse hills were already spurring changes in farm practices in 1989. The emphasis on resource conservation and environmental protection has only increased during the last 25 years. Several Centennial Farms said they have moved to less tillage or no-till and direct seed on their operations.

Alex McGregor, one of the owners of McGregor Land & Livestock Ranch, observed that the last 25 years have seen the biggest gains in

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*Erosion has been greatly reduced, and in most cases eliminated, by leaving crop residue on top of the soil.*

MARY ANN WIGEN, THE WHEALEN FARM

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productivity and stewardship since pioneers broke out the prairie with horse-drawn walking plows. “Together we’ve increased production 250 percent, reduced water-borne soil erosion 85

percent, reduced dust six-fold, and reduced stubble burning – once done on every acre – 22-fold.”

### *Centennial Farms by the numbers: 1989 vs 2014*

- Of the 48 farms still in the family, 22 are owned by the same owners as in 1989. Eighteen have been passed on to a child, grandchild or cousin. Eight are owned by the 1989 owner and the next generation.
- Twenty-four farms list the current owner or one of the owners as the day-to-day operator of the farm, 13 list a child, grandchild or other family member, and 11 are operated by a neighbor, friend or other non-relative.
- Ten farms have smaller operations than in 1989 and eighteen are larger, with the average size growing from 1,924 acres in 1989 to 2,347 acres in 2014. Farm sizes in 1989 ranged from 120 to 34,000 acres, and in 2014, from 33 to 37,000 acres.
- About one-quarter of the Centennial Farms reported they lease their land. Several lease to the same neighbor or friend as in 1989.
- The median size of the farms operated by lessees is 360 acres; the median size for owner-operated farms is 1,271 acres.
- Virtually all of Whitman County’s Centennial Farms are still wheat farms, with one farm reporting its cropland is in CRP and another farm producing cattle and hay.
- In 1989, all 48 farms reported growing wheat and barley and 32 reported growing dry peas. In 2014, virtually all grow wheat – including seven that reported growing only wheat – but less than half grow barley and even fewer grow dry peas. A quarter of the farms grow garbanzo beans in 2014, a crop not mentioned in 1989.
- Almost one-third of the farms reported raising livestock, primarily cattle, in 1989. Only half as many do so in 2014.
- Only four of the responding Centennial Farms are no longer in the family. All are still farmed.

Comments from several Whitman County farms, including the John Jacob and Caroline Schlee Homestead, are featured in the *Overview* chapter.



***The Harriet Adams Farm, est. 1883***

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**Current Owner:** John and Mary K. Stelzer  
**Relationship to 1989 Owner:** same  
**Current Operator:** John Stelzer  
**Relationship to Owner:** one of the owners

Original Acres Retained		Acres			Crops or Livestock Raised	
1989	2014	Farmed	Owned	Operated	1988	2014
120	120	120	120	120	Wheat, barley	Wheat, barley

**Changes in the Past 25 Years:** Has not changed.

**Contact:** Mary Kaye Stelzer, 42414 S. Texas Ferry Rd., Rosalia, WA 99170

***Alameda Farm, est. 1882***

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**Current Owner:** Jerry and Wilma Means  
**Relationship to 1989 Owner:** same  
**Current Operator:** Jerry and Wilma Means  
**Relationship to Owner:** same

Original Acres Retained		Acres			Crops or Livestock Raised	
1989	2014	Farmed	Owned	Operated	1988	2014
160	160	345	445	445	Wheat, barley	Wheat, barley

**Changes in the Past 25 Years:** No change. The barn, granary and house are still standing.

**Contact:** Jerry and Wilma Means, 15001 Pine City Malden Rd., St. John, WA 99171

***James Bailey, Inc. (Kelly Farm), est. 1888***

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**Current Owner:** Karolyn Bailey  
**Relationship to 1989 Owner:** one of the owners  
**Current Operator:** Mike and Jennifer Larson  
**Relationship to Owner:** niece and her husband

Original Acres Retained		Acres			Crops or Livestock Raised	
1989	2014	Farmed	Owned	Operated	1988	2014
60	42	3,200	1,085	3,200	Wheat, barley	Wheat

**Changes in the Past 25 Years:** James Bailey deceased 2008; son Bryan Bailey deceased 1992.

**Additional Information:** Farm life is a wonderful way to live life and raise a family, so many treasured memories.

**Contact:** Karolyn Kaye Bailey, 5671 Dewey Rd., Lamont, WA 99017

***James Bailey, Inc. (Shields Farm), est. 1883***

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**Current Owner:** Karolyn Bailey  
**Relationship to 1989 Owner:** one of the owners  
**Current Operator:** Mike and Jennifer Larson  
**Relationship to Owner:** niece and her husband

***Overview of the farm listings***

Each farm listing contains the information provided by Centennial Farm families in response to the WSDA questionnaire. Each listing is a 2014 snapshot of the farm's ownership, family connections, size of operation, and crops and livestock produced. It often includes comments about changes in the last 25 years and, as much as possible, is in the voice of the respondent.

Each listing notes the page number for the farm's profile in the 1989 book, *Washington's Centennial Farms – Yesterday and Today* or its addendum, available on the WSDA website. A farm's 2014 listing is best understood and appreciated when read with its 1989 profile, where you'll find information on the farm's establishment and its operation at the time of the state's Centennial.

The booklet is organized alphabetically by farm name. Farms that did not respond are listed at the end of the chapter.



Original Acres Retained		Acres			Crops or Livestock Raised	
1989	2014	Farmed	Owned	Operated	1988	2014
118	118	3,200	661	3,200	Wheat, barley	Wheat

**Changes in the Past 25 Years:** Land was leased to and farmed by Mike Larson since 2011 because of my husband James Bailey's death in 2008.  
**Contact:** Karolyn Kaye Bailey, 5671 Dewey Rd., Lamont, WA 99017

***The John Bishop Farm, est. 1878*** Page 132

**Current Owner:** John D. and Judy Bishop, Malcom Burnett  
**Relationship to 1989 Owner:** same, husband of Regina Bishop Burnett  
**Current Operator:** Roger and Lyn Pennell  
**Relationship to Owner:** neighbor

Original Acres Retained		Acres			Crops or Livestock Raised	
1989	2014	Farmed	Owned	Operated	1988	2014
160	160	390	390	390	Wheat, barley, peas, lentils	Wheat

**Changes in the Past 25 Years:** The homestead has been cleaned up and all undesirable trees removed. The second house that the homesteader John A. Bishop built in the late 1800s is still used periodically.  
**Contact:** John and Judy Bishop, 630 Valley Mall Pkwy., #156, East Wenatchee, WA 98802

***The Daniel Boone Farm, est. 1879*** Page 132

**Current Owner:** Dan and Nancy Boone  
**Relationship to 1989 Owner:** same  
**Current Operator:** Daniel Michael Boone  
**Relationship to Owner:** son

Original Acres Retained		Acres			Crops or Livestock Raised	
1989	2014	Farmed	Owned	Operated	1988	2014
160	160	1,800	about 2,000	4,000	Wheat, barley, peas, lentils, cattle	Wheat, garbanzos, peas, barley, cattle

**Changes in the Past 25 Years:** We use different rotation crops and are more concerned about conservation of the soil.  
**Contact:** Dan Boone, 6202 Wawawai-Pullman Rd., Pullman, WA 99163

***John Chandler Estate, est. 1882*** Page 134

This Centennial Farm is no longer owned by the family that owned it in 1989. The farm left family ownership in Aug. 8, 2014.  
**Is the Land Still Farmed?** Yes. Several of the family sold their shares of the farm in 2008 and 2009; the rest was sold in August 2014. Mr. C.F. Zimmer is the 2,240-acre farm's new owner and his son, Mike Zimmer, is the day-to-day operator, growing wheat.  
**Contact:** Bill Raker, 6520 135th Pl. S.W., Edmonds, WA 98026

***The Clark Place, est. 1889*** Page A-20

**Current Owner:** Clark Farms, Inc.  
**Relationship to 1989 Owner:** same  
**Current Operator:** Asa, Girard, William, Mark and Gavin Clark  
**Relationship to Owner:** all are owners

Original Acres Retained		Acres			Crops or Livestock Raised	
1989	2014	Farmed	Owned	Operated	1988	2014
about 300	about 300	6,200	4,918	6,943	Wheat, barley, dry peas, lentils	Wheat, chickpeas, canola, quinoa

**Changes in the Past 25 Years:** Slightly larger, less tillage, slightly more crop diversification.  
**Contact:** Asa W. Clark, 6093 Palouse-Albion Rd., Pullman, WA 99163



**The Comegys Farm, est. 1878**

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**Current Owner:** April Downing Eriksen and Robert Goldsworthy

**Relationship to 1989 Owner:** Margaret Downing's daughter, Jean Goldsworthy's son

**Current Operator:** Kye Eriksen

**Relationship to Owner:** Tracy and April Eriksen's son

Original Acres Retained		Acres			Crops or Livestock Raised	
1989	2014	Farmed	Owned	Operated	1988	2014
320	320	550	1,550	2,650	Wheat, oats, peas, and barley	Wheat, alfalfa, winter canola

**Changes in the Past 25 Years:** Moved from traditional cultivation to "no-till" cropping.

**Contact:** April Eriksen, 102 Eriksen Rd., St. John, WA 99171

**The Charlie P. Crow Farm, est. 1880**

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**Charlie P. Crow, Inc., est. 1882**

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**Current Owner:** Joanne Crow Sturm and Charlie David Crow

**Relationship to 1989 Owner:** two of the owners

**Current Operator:** Brian Crow

**Relationship to Owner:** cousin

Original Acres Retained		Acres			Crops or Livestock Raised	
1989	2014	Farmed	Owned	Operated	1988	2014
45 and 80	125	700	700	700	Wheat, peas, lentils, barley	Wheat

**Changes in the Past 25 Years:** Our parents have both passed away, mother at age 86 and father at 97 years of age; now sister and brother are equal owners. Both Charlie P. Crow Farms are now operated as one farm under Charlie P. Crow, Inc. The total acreage owned and operated for both farms is 700.

**Contact:** Joanne Crow Sturm, 10114 Natalie Ave., Cheney, WA 99004, or Charlie David Crow, 6138 S. 381st Way, Auburn, WA 98001

**The Robert A. Crow Farm, est. 1880**

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**Current Owner:** Brian Crow

**Relationship to 1989 Owner:** grandson

**Current Operator:** Brian Crow

**Relationship to Owner:** same

Original Acres Retained		Acres			Crops or Livestock Raised	
1989	2014	Farmed	Owned	Operated	1988	2014
60	60	586	2,724	6,265	Wheat, peas, lentils, and barley	Wheat, barley

**Changes in the Past 25 Years:** No original buildings remain. The farm operation has expanded.

**Contact:** Brian M. Crow, P.O. Box 16, Oakesdale, WA 99158

**The Donahoe Farm, est. 1887**

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**Current Owner:** Leila M. VanDyke

**Relationship to 1989 Owner:** cousin

**Current Operator:** Leila M. VanDyke

**Relationship to Owner:** same

Original Acres Retained		Acres			Crops or Livestock Raised	
1989	2014	Farmed	Owned	Operated	1988	2014
160	160	640	160	160	Wheat, barley, peas, lentils, grass, hay, cattle	Wheat, barley, lentils, peas, grass, livestock

**Changes in the Past 25 Years:** We built an additional second home. All of the original buildings are still standing and still in use.

**Contact:** Ron VanDyke, 801 W. Paradise Rd., Spokane, WA 99224



**The Fleener Farm, est. 1874**

Page 140

**Current Owner:** Fleener Enterprises: S. Frank Fleener  
**Relationship to 1989 Owner:** son  
**Current Operator:** S. Frank Fleener  
**Relationship to Owner:** same

Original Acres Retained		Acres			Crops or Livestock Raised	
1989	2014	Farmed	Owned	Operated	1988	2014
160	160	1,400	1,000	5,000	Wheat, barley, lentils, peas	Wheat, lentils, peas

**Changes in the Past 25 Years:** More acres farmed. The original barn was remodeled in 1980 and is still used today.

**Contact:** S. Frank Fleener, 4482 Estes Rd., Pullman, WA 99163

**Freels Heirs Farm, est. 1886**

Page 141

**Current Owner:** The Mary Freels Heirs: Larry Jerue; Kaye Clark; Judy Bonhof; Larry Mathison; Mark and Jan Tollett; Nancy, William, and Robert Peterson; M. Joanne Thorsell; Terry, Warren and Michael Jerue; Lynne Anderson  
**Relationship to 1989 Owner:** Larry Jerue, Kaye, Judy, Larry Mathison, and Mark and Jan were owners in 1989. Nancy, William, Robert and M. Joanne are Muriel Peterson’s children. Terry, Warren, Michael and Lynne are Joe Jerue’s children.  
**Current Operator:** Mark and Janice Tollett  
**Relationship to Owner:** two of the owners

Original Acres Retained		Acres			Crops or Livestock Raised	
1989	2014	Farmed	Owned	Operated	1988	2014
160	160	542	558	558	Wheat, barley, peas	Winter wheat, spring wheat, spring barley

**Changes in the Past 25 Years:** Not changed.

**Additional Information:** Mary Lee Tollett passed away in 2010. Phil Mathison sold his share of the farm to Mark and Janice. The farm is

currently owned by grandchildren and great-grandchildren of Allison and Mary Freels.

**Contact:** Mark and Janice Tollett, 802 Jim Davis Rd., St. John, WA 99171

**The Goldsworthy Farm, est. 1880**

Page 142

**Current Owner:** Bob, Jill, Harry III and Jim Goldsworthy  
**Relationship to 1989 Owner:** same and children  
**Current Operator:** Bob Goldsworthy  
**Relationship to Owner:** one of the owners

Original Acres Retained		Acres			Crops or Livestock Raised	
1989	2014	Farmed	Owned	Operated	1988	2014
160	160	967	1,000	1,100	Wheat, barley	Wheat

**Changes in the Past 25 Years:** Not much. We’re trying to preserve the land, buildings and our heritage, and we are really tied to the land. The original machine shop, bunkhouse and house (remodeled in 1952) still stand.

**Additional Information:** Harry Jr. is 100 years old and the last of the third generation. Land has been transferred to the fourth generation and it will stay in the family. Younger family members come back to the farm to help with the harvest and during the year to help with operations as they can. Bob is also an owner-operator of the Comegys Centennial Farm; his mother is a Comegys.

**Contact:** Eugenia Goldsworthy Jr., 5602 Ld Johnson Rd., Rosalia, WA 99170

**Grove Ranch, est. 1883**

Page 143

**Current Owner:** Vera Ruud, Roger Cox, Dianna Pewitt, Mary Lindsay, Jay Magnuson and Jack Lamberton  
**Relationship to 1989 Owner:** two of the owners, and Thelma and Evelyn’s children  
**Current Operator:** Chuck Jordan  
**Relationship to Owner:** friend



Original Acres Retained		Acres			Crops or Livestock Raised	
		Farmed	Owned	Operated		
1989	2014	1989	2014		1988	2014
20	20	760	760	760	Wheat, barley	Wheat, barley, oilseeds, garbanzos

**Changes in the Past 25 Years:** Consolidation of ownership. We have added raising oilseeds and garbanzos. More wildlife visits the farm and turkeys have been successfully introduced. One of the great, positive changes is the change in farming practices to direct seed. Direct seeding has reduced the soil loss from large amounts with significant water loss from the fields to negligible on both counts. Conrad (the original homesteader) would not recognize the farming methods used in direct seed. We have improved the variety of crops grown and have made the transition to direct seed with no loss in profitability.

**Additional Information:** Conrad "Coon" Schierman left Russia with approximately 200 Russian Germans because he was suffering religious persecution. He, his brothers and cousins were diligent Bible students and maintained an active religious life that centered around meditation, prayer and Bible study. The family maintains these family values today. In 2007, Jay Magnuson, Evelyn's son, became an owner. In 2011, Jack Lambertson, Thelma's son, became an owner. In 2012, Dianna Pewitt and Mary Lindsay, Evelyn's daughters, became owners.

Contact: Roger Cox, P.O. Box 237, Endicott, WA 99125

***Guske Family Limited Partnership, est. 1879*** Page 144

**Current Owner:** Guske Family LLC: Lester Guske Sr.

**Relationship to 1989 Owner:** same

**Current Operator:** Lester Guske Jr.

**Relationship to Owner:** son

Original Acres Retained		Acres			Crops or Livestock Raised	
		Farmed	Owned	Operated		
1989	2014	1989	2014		1988	2014
160	160	840	1,091	1,600	Wheat, barley, alfalfa, cattle, hogs	Wheat, hay, cattle

**Changes in the Past 25 Years:** The original house and barn are still used. We've added acreage, some purchased, some leased, to the farm operation. The partnership changed to an LLC in 1997. A corporation was formed in 1996 to act as the farm operator, and it leases all the land.

Contact: Lester Guske Sr., P.O. Box 208, Lacrosse, WA 99143

***The Harter Farm, est. 1875*** Page 145

**Current Owner:** Ed Harter Estate, Martin Marler

**Relationship to 1989 Owner:** estate of an owner, Jennie Marler's son

**Current Operator:** Martin Marler

**Relationship to Owner:** one of the owners

Original Acres Retained		Acres			Crops or Livestock Raised	
		Farmed	Owned	Operated		
1989	2014	1989	2014		1988	2014
160	160	1,100	about 1,200	1,300	Wheat, lentils, peas, barley, horses	Wheat, barley

**Changes in the Past 25 Years:** Not much. Only the original house still stands.

**Additional Information:** The portion of the Harter Farm owned by Janet Huber is farmed separately.

Contact: Martin Marler, P.O. Box 365, Colfax, WA 99111

***Hill Ranch, est. 1877*** Page 147

This Centennial Farm is no longer owned by the Hill family. The farm left family ownership in 1995.

**Is the Land Still Farmed?** Yes, we sold it to a farmer who leases it to another farmer. We sold it because the agriculture economy was in the pits and we couldn't get big.

Contact: Gordon Hill, 3051 Clear Creek Rd., Palouse, WA 99161



***The Hoffman Farm, est. 1882***

**Current Owner:** Janet Huber, Bill and Dale Ross, JoAnn Ross Cunningham

**Relationship to 1989 Owner:** one of the owners, and children of Alice Ross

**Current Operator:** Mike and Don Nelson

**Relationship to Owner:** neighbors

Original Acres Retained		Acres			Crops or Livestock Raised	
1989	2014	Farmed	Owned	Operated	1988	2014
160	154	600	600	600	Wheat, barley, peas	Wheat, lentils, garbanzos, peas, oats

**Changes in the Past 25 Years:** The land has not changed. Washington Water Power put power lines through. The farmhouse and outbuildings with six acres were sold.

**Additional Information:** Alice Hoffman Ross died on Sept. 26, 2014. Her three children now own what was her half of the farm.

**Contact:** JoAnn Ross Cunningham, P.O. Box 614, Haines, AK 99827

***The Horlacher/McCoy Farm, est. 1882***

**Current Owner:** Clifton Smith

**Relationship to 1989 Owner:** one of the owners

**Current Operator:** Lessee

**Relationship to Owner:** no relation

Original Acres Retained		Acres			Crops or Livestock Raised	
1989	2014	Farmed	Owned	Operated	1988	2014
140	129	140	360	360	Wheat, barley	Wheat

**Changes in the Past 25 Years:** Low wheat prices from 2000 to 2006 made me stop farming and lease out.

**Additional Information:** My uncle, who owned the farm with me in 1988, sold his share to me.

**Contact:** Clifton B. Smith, 1901 SR 274, Tekoa, WA 99033

***Howard Farms, Inc., est. 1882***

**Current Owner:** Howard Farms, Inc.: George H. Howard, Bruce P. Howard, Norma L. Howard, Sally J. Markley, Norman A. Howard, John W. Howard, Philip S. Howard, and Susan E. Emery

**Relationship to 1989 Owner:** George is one of the 1989 owners. Bruce, Norma and Sally are James' children. Norman, John, Philip and Susan are Robert's children.

**Current Operator:** Lessee

**Relationship to Owner:** no relation

Original Acres Retained		Acres			Crops or Livestock Raised	
1989	2014	Farmed	Owned	Operated	1988	2014
520	520	1,010	1,010	1,010	Wheat, barley, peas, some livestock	Wheat, barley, garbanzos, some cattle

**Changes in the Past 25 Years:** Farming methods (no-till, chemfallow), fertilizer and chemical usage, equipment capabilities and capacities, and significantly increased capital investment requirements. The original log house remains part of the long-time home which is used by members of the family when visiting.

**Additional Information:** The farming operation, under lease from Howard Farms, Inc., has been very effectively accomplished by the same operator for the past 30 years.

**Contact:** George H. Howard, 6358 S. 298th Pl., Auburn, WA 98001

***The Huffman Farm, est. 1878***

**Current Owner:** Triple D Centennial Farms, LLC: Addie Mae Sienknecht and children

**Relationship to 1989 Owner:** same and children

**Current Operator:** Sons of Addie Mae Sienknecht

**Relationship to Owner:** some of the owners



Original Acres Retained		Acres			Crops or Livestock Raised	
		Farmed	Owned	Operated		
1989	2014	1989	2014		1988	2014
100	100	853	750	750	Wheat, lentils, peas, barley	Wheat, lentils, peas, alfalfa

**Changes in the Past 25 Years:** The house is still standing and lived in. The farm is now part of an LLC. The fencing has changed and some of the outbuildings.

**Contact:** Doug and Wendy Sienknecht, 430 W. Bridge St., Tekoa, WA 99033

***The Hughes Farm, est. 1878***

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**Current Owner:** Joel and Ann Heck

**Relationship to 1989 Owner:** one of the owners

**Current Operator:** Dave Curtis and Henning Farms

**Relationship to Owner:** no relation

Original Acres Retained		Acres			Crops or Livestock Raised	
		Farmed	Owned	Operated		
1989	2014	1989	2014		1988	2014
66	66	350	66	66	Wheat, barley, peas	Wheat, barley

**Changes in the Past 25 Years:** It hasn't changed, but the main house has been restored.

**Additional Information:** The farmland is leased to two parties: Dave Curtis of St. John and Henning Farms of Thornton.

**Contact:** Ann J. Heck, 192 Sen. Eugene Prince Rd., Thornton, WA 99176

***The Huntley Farm, est. 1887***

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**Current Owner:** Necia Huntley

**Relationship to 1989 Owner:** same

**Current Operator:** Wayne and Steve Henning

**Relationship to Owner:** friends of family

Original Acres Retained		Acres			Crops or Livestock Raised	
		Farmed	Owned	Operated		
1989	2014	1989	2014		1988	2014
80	80	887	800	800	Wheat, barley, peas, lentils, Whiteface cattle	Wheat, barley

**Changes in the Past 25 Years:** The flats, which had been pastureland, have been tilled. No more cattle and sheep. A brick cellar connected to the original house is used for storage. The windmill still stands.

**Additional Information:** Elmer Huntley passed away in 1994. His share of the farm was willed to Washington State University, which sold it to Wayne Henning. The remaining land belongs to Necia, who retains control of the farm until her death, when her half will go to WSU for the Elmer & Necia Huntley Scholarship Fund, which is already established.

**Contact:** Necia Huntley, 1910 Evergreen Park Dr., Apt. 801, Olympia, WA 98502

***The Adam Kile Farm, est. 1881***

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**Current Owner:** Kile Farm Trust

**Relationship to 1989 Owner:** Lester Kile requested the farm go to the Kile Farm Trust when he passed away.

**Current Operator:** Jeannie Kile

**Relationship to Owner:** trustee

Original Acres Retained		Acres			Crops or Livestock Raised	
		Farmed	Owned	Operated		
1989	2014	1989	2014		1988	2014
160	160	1,650	1,650	1,650	Wheat, barley, peas	Barley, wheat

**Contact:** Jeannie Kile, 9719 W. Masters Ln., Cheney, WA 99004

***The John Thomas Kile Farm, est. 1881***

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**Current Owner:** Mr. and Mrs. Ronald John Kile

**Relationship to 1989 Owner:** same

**Current Operator:** Ronald J. Kile

**Relationship to Owner:** same



Original Acres Retained		Acres			Crops or Livestock Raised	
1989	2014	Farmed	Owned	Operated	1988	2014
166	166	1,050	1,021	1,271	Soft white wheat, barley, peas	Soft white wheat, barley, occasional pulse crops

**Changes in the Past 25 Years:** Practicing mulch-till, direct seed farming.

**Contact:** Ronald Kile, 401 Squires Rd., Rosalia, WA 99170

***The Laird/Hamilton Farm, est. 1887*** Page 155

**Current Owner:** Clarence Hamilton and Vivian Harder

**Relationship to 1989 Owner:** son and daughter

**Current Operator:** Clarence Hamilton

**Relationship to Owner:** one of the owners

Original Acres Retained		Acres			Crops or Livestock Raised	
1989	2014	Farmed	Owned	Operated	1988	2014
80	80	387	387	387	Wheat, barley	CRP

**Changes in the Past 25 Years:** From growing wheat and barley to CRP. Clarence's son, Steve, and daughter, Jodie Young, built homes and live on this farm.

**Additional Information:** Edward passed away in 1997, so the farm was split between his children Vivian and Clarence.

**Contact:** Clarence Hamilton, 22851 Endicott Rd., Colfax, WA 99111

***The Lemon Farm, est. 1880*** Page 155

**Current Owner:** Jim Lemon and Lolita Lemon Sutton

**Relationship to 1989 Owner:** two of the owners

**Current Operator:** Alfred and Larry Schroetlin

**Relationship to Owner:** not related

Original Acres Retained		Acres			Crops or Livestock Raised	
1989	2014	Farmed	Owned	Operated	1988	2014
91	35	252	35	33	Wheat, barley	Wheat, barley, lentils

**Changes in the Past 25 Years:** Most outbuildings and the house were removed due to age. All but 35 acres have been sold. We still have original homestead where the house once sat, and the original shop and storage building are still in use.

**Additional Information:** We sold 228 acres in 2007 to longtime lessees. We kept 35 acres with the original homestead property and maintain it for family use today.

**Contact:** Jim Lemon, 914 S. Meadow St., Colfax, WA 99111

***The Love Farm, est. 1881*** Page 156

**Current Owner:** Wendell Love and Marilyn Cunningham

**Relationship to 1989 Owner:** same

**Current Operator:** Warren Neal

**Relationship to Owner:** friend

Original Acres Retained		Acres			Crops or Livestock Raised	
1989	2014	Farmed	Owned	Operated	1988	2014
160	160	160	160	160	Wheat, peas, lentils, barley	Peas, wheat

**Changes in the Past 25 Years:** Type of farming has changed to reduced tillage. The original house and shed still stand.

**Contact:** Warren Neal, 304 Lange Rd., Garfield, WA 99130

***The Lyle Farm, est. 1879*** Page 157

**Current Owner:** Scott J. and Robert J. Lyle

**Relationship to 1989 Owner:** grandsons

**Current Operator:** Scott and Robert Lyle

**Relationship to Owner:** same



Original Acres Retained		Acres			Crops or Livestock Raised	
1989	2014	Farmed	Owned	Operated	1988	2014
160	160	584	160	160	Cattle, wheat, barley, peas	Hay, cattle

**Additional Information:** Robert L. Lyle passed in 1989. His son James R. still lives on the farm, and was owner from 1989 to 2013. The farm is now owned by two of James' sons: Scott, who lives on the farm with his wife and one son, and Robert, who is building a house on the farm for himself and his wife.

Contact: Scott Lyle, 14972 SR 194, Pullman, WA 99163

**McGregor Land & Livestock Ranch, est. 1883** Page A-22

**Current Owner:** McGregor Land and Livestock Company: Alex, Ian, Alyson, Robin, Katherine, Mary, Andrew, John Robert, Ethan, and Leah McGregor.

**Relationship to 1989 Owner:** Alex was one of the three company owners in 1989. He, Mary, and Andrew are third generation descendants of one of the four founding McGregor brothers; Alyson, Robin, John Robert, Katherine and Ian are fourth generation descendants of another; as are Ethan and Leah, fifth generation.

**Current Operator:** Dave Hannas and Alex McGregor

**Relationship to Owner:** general manager and one of the owners

Original Acres Retained		Acres			Crops or Livestock Raised	
1989	2014	Farmed	Owned	Operated	1988	2014
160	160	34,000	30,360	37,000	Wheat, barley, cattle	Wheat, barley, alfalfa, cattle

**Changes in the Past 25 Years:** Like other farm families, we've made big gains in productivity and stewardship, producing several 80-plus bushel crops in a 13-inch rainfall zone where 45 bushels was once an outstanding yield, while reducing tillage and making major gains in preservation of the topsoil. We've reseeded rangeland to boost long-term productivity. We've acquired some alfalfa and wheat ground from neighbors retiring from farming.

**Additional Information:** Three-quarters of the ranch is rangeland in the rugged canyons of the Channeled Scablands – wild, remote country where it takes as many as 40 acres to nourish each cow/calf pair. The remainder is wheat land and, in the Palouse River valley, a small area is devoted to raising irrigated alfalfa. Many of the buildings in the village of Hooper, which is part of the ranch, date back to pioneer days. In the last decade we have restored the historic brick general store and the ranch boarding house and upgraded several homes. We're slowly renovating harvest cook shacks and sheep herder wagons and other heritage items. Being active on issues of importance to all of us in agriculture is a major priority of ours, as it is with many farm families. We devote a lot of energy to telling the story of production agriculture and the thousands of farm families who contribute to its success. Our business was recognized a few years ago by the Secretary of State as a "Centennial Company," one of the oldest incorporated enterprises in the state.

Contact: Alex McGregor, The McGregor Company, P.O. Box 740, Colfax, WA 99111

**The McGuire Farm, est. 1883** Page 157

**Current Owner:** McGuire 1883 LLC: Lee and Linda McGuire, Lee R. McGuire Jr. (Rusty), Tina Coe, Robert McGuire

**Relationship to 1989 Owner:** same

**Current Operator:** Rusty McGuire

**Relationship to Owner:** one of the owners

Original Acres Retained		Acres			Crops or Livestock Raised	
1989	2014	Farmed	Owned	Operated	1988	2014
320	120	2,050	120	120	Wheat, barley, peas, lentils	Wheat, barley

**Changes in the Past 25 Years:** The 1883 barn remains and is used. The farm itself is smaller.

Contact: Rusty McGuire, P.O. Box 1187, Davenport, WA 99122



**The Miller/Powers Farm, est. 1875**

Page 159

**Current Owner:** Cory, Marla, and Sharon Aeschliman; Robert, Alison, Jennifer, Ryan, Christopher, Mark, and Melissa Powers

**Relationship to 1989 Owner:** Sharon Aeschliman, whose children are Cory and Marla, is the niece of Thelma Miller and the daughter of Thelma and Violet's sister Wilma Hodge. Robert Powers (Alison and Jennifer are his daughters) and Chris Powers (Mark and Melissa are two of his children) are Violet Power's sons.

**Current Operator:** Cory Aeschliman

**Relationship to Owner:** one of the owners

Original Acres Retained		Acres			Crops or Livestock Raised	
1989	2014	Farmed	Owned	Operated	1988	2014
93	93	777	303	303	Wheat, barley, some fruit, deer, pheasants	Hard red wheat, dark northern spring wheat, garbanzos, soft winter wheat

**Changes in the Past 25 Years:** Original structures still standing include the house, which is now lived in, a wall from the original homestead house, and an outbuilding. The farm is more productive.

**Contact:** Cory Aeschliman, 4004 Wilcox Rd., Colfax, WA 99111

**The Moys Farm, est. 1877**

Page 160

**Current Owner:** Georgie Leinweber

**Relationship to 1989 Owner:** one of the owners

**Current Operator:** Todd Strader

**Relationship to Owner:** son-in-law

Original Acres Retained		Acres			Crops or Livestock Raised	
1989	2014	Farmed	Owned	Operated	1988	2014
160	160	640	1,284	1,284	Grain, peas, barley	Wheat, garbanzos

**Changes in the Past 25 Years:** New farm technology, GPS and no-till farming are occurring at the farm.

**Additional Information:** The Moys Farm is now farming as Box 4 Ranch and Moys 1877 LLC. The house was built in 1878, lower barn in 1893, and upper barn in 1924 (and will be torn down soon). Georgie's daughter and son-in-law and two grandchildren (seventh generation) are living on the farm and farming the land.

**Contact:** Georgie Leinweber, 520 W. Orchard, Colfax, WA 99111

**Mraz Farms, est. 1877**

Page 162

**Current Owner:** James and Gerald Mraz

**Relationship to 1989 Owner:** same

**Current Operator:** James and Gerald Mraz

**Relationship to Owner:** same

Original Acres Retained		Acres			Crops or Livestock Raised	
1989	2014	Farmed	Owned	Operated	1988	2014
160	160	655	280	280	Wheat, barley, dry peas	Wheat, barley, peas

**Additional Information:** James lives in the house built in 1889. The now 134-year-old barn was restored in 2012 and is still in use.

**Contact:** James and Gerald Mraz, c/o Mraz Farms, 2552 Wawawai Rd., Colton, WA 99113

**The Nelson Century Farm, est. 1872**

Page A-23

This Centennial Farm is no longer owned by the Nelson family. The farm left family ownership in 2012.

**Is the Land Still Farmed?** Yes, a corporation from Coeur d'Alene now owns the land. It is farmed by local farmers. Gene Huntley Nelson, the last family member to own and farm the land, sold the farm in 2012 and passed away May 7, 2014, at the age of 71.

**Contact:** Betty Nelson Gill, 7326 Huckleberry Rd. N.W., Olympia, WA 98502



***The O'Neil Farm, est. 1884***

Page 162

This Centennial Farm is no longer owned by the family that owned it in 1989. Otto L. Eggers acquired the land in 1989 and bequeathed it to his son, Otto L. Eggers II, in 2009.

**Is the Land Still Farmed?** Yes, by Steve and Kevin Mader

**Contact:** Otto L. Eggers II, 5678 N. Pinegrove Dr., Coeur d'Alene, ID 83815

***The Prince Farm, est. 1880***

Page 163

**Current Owner:** Ray and Arlene (Prince) Beale

**Relationship to 1989 Owner:** daughter and son-in-law

**Current Operator:** Loren Beale

**Relationship to Owner:** son

Original Acres Retained		Acres			Crops or Livestock Raised	
1989	2014	Farmed	Owned	Operated	1988	2014
97	97	3,800	1,235	1,235	Wheat, barley	Wheat, barley, peas, mustard

**Changes in the Past 25 Years:** The farm was operated by a nephew of Burdett Prince for 20 years. He retired and my son, Loren Beale, and my grandsons, Greg and Sean Beale, are farming it now. The house where I was born has been destroyed so the shop and storage sheds are all that's left.

**Contact:** Arlene Beale, P.O. Box 7, Pomeroy, WA 99347

***The John Jacob and Caroline Schlee Homestead, est. 1876***

Page 164

**Current Owner:** Carol Druffel

**Relationship to 1989 Owner:** one of the owners

**Current Operator:** Leroy Druffel

**Relationship to Owner:** son

Original Acres Retained		Acres			Crops or Livestock Raised	
1989	2014	Farmed	Owned	Operated	1988	2014
160	160	2,000	1,000	5,000	Wheat, barley, peas, a few cattle	Small grains

**Changes in the Past 25 Years:** Now under sustainable no-till management for crop production. Food Alliance Certified Sustainable. **Additional Information:** John Jacob and Caroline Schlee's great-great-grandson, Allen J. Druffel, is in the process of taking over the farm's management.

**Contact:** Leroy "Lee" Druffel, 802 Bald Butte Rd., Colton, WA 99113

***The Shoemaker Farm, est. 1879***

Page 165

**Current Owner:** Stephen P. Shoemaker and Margaret (Shoemaker) Collier

**Relationship to 1989 Owner:** son and daughter

**Current Operator:** John and Cindy Arland

**Relationship to Owner:** lessees

Original Acres Retained		Acres			Crops or Livestock Raised	
1989	2014	Farmed	Owned	Operated	1988	2014
149	149	220	220	220	Wheat, peas, barley, lentils	Wheat, lentils, garbanzo beans

**Changes in the Past 25 Years:** An original garage is still standing and used for storage. The dairy barn roof has fallen in.

**Additional Information:** After Stephen B. Shoemaker died, his widow Vida owned the farm until her death in 2014 at the age of 92. There have been four Stephen Shoemakers who have owned the land over the last 135 years: Stephen Bell, Stephen William, Stephen Bishop and now Stephen Patton Shoemaker.

**Contact:** Margaret L. (Shoemaker) Collier, 1672 Olson Rd., Palouse, WA 99161



***The Siegel Farm, est. 1877***

Page 167

**Current Owner:** John H. Siegel  
**Relationship to 1989 Owner:** son  
**Current Operator:** Corde Siegel  
**Relationship to Owner:** son

Original Acres Retained		Acres			Crops or Livestock Raised	
1989	2014	Farmed	Owned	Operated	1988	2014
80	80	3,000	1,700	4,000	Wheat, barley, peas, hay, pasture, cattle	Wheat, peas, cattle, hay

**Changes in the Past 25 Years:** Farming practices are different, more minimum till over field, change in fertilizer practice.

**Contact:** John Siegel, 1291 Texas Ferry Rd., Rosalia, WA 99170

***The James Madison Small Farm, est. 1877***

Page 167

**Current Owner:** Rodger Small  
**Relationship to 1989 Owner:** son  
**Current Operator:** Cris and Pam Kincaid  
**Relationship to Owner:** lessee

Original Acres Retained		Acres			Crops or Livestock Raised	
1989	2014	Farmed	Owned	Operated	1988	2014
320	320	320	320	320	Wheat, peas, barley	Wheat, garbanzos

**Changes in the Past 25 Years:** The original barn still stands and is in use. We have built a new house.

**Contact:** Rodger Small, 3695 Nicklaus Dr., Clarkston, WA 99403

***The Squires Farm, est. 1883***

Page 168

**Current Owner:** David St. John  
**Relationship to 1989 Owner:** son of Shirley St. John  
**Current Operator:** David St. John  
**Relationship to Owner:** same

Original Acres Retained		Acres			Crops or Livestock Raised	
1989	2014	Farmed	Owned	Operated	1988	2014
156	154	184	154	About 1,200	Wheat, barley, peas, lentils	Wheat, peas, barley

**Changes in the Past 25 Years:** The original house and barn still stand.

**Additional Information:** John Siegel is a cousin of the 1989 owners.

**Contact:** John Siegel or David St. John, 1291 Texas Ferry Rd., Rosalia, WA 98170

***The Stratton Farm, est. 1877***

Page 168

**Current Owner:** John F. Stratton and Virginia M. Colvig  
**Relationship to 1989 Owner:** children  
**Current Operator:** John F. Stratton  
**Relationship to Owner:** one of the owners

Original Acres Retained		Acres			Crops or Livestock Raised	
1989	2014	Farmed	Owned	Operated	1988	2014
80	80	990	400	560	Wheat, peas, barley	Wheat, garbanzo beans

**Changes in the Past 25 Years:** No major changes.

**Contact:** John F. Stratton, 1653 Old Moscow Rd., Pullman, WA 99163

***The Swannack Farm, est. 1888***

Page 169

**Current Owner:** William C. Swannack Jr.  
**Relationship to 1989 Owner:** son  
**Current Operator:** Bill and Tom Swannack  
**Relationship to Owner:** same and son



Original Acres Retained		Acres			Crops or Livestock Raised	
1989	2014	Farmed	Owned	Operated	1988	2014
160	160	7,000	7,000	7,000	Wheat, barley, cattle	Wheat, cattle, hay (grass, alfalfa, barley, triticale)

**Changes in the Past 25 Years:** Bill Swannack has owned the farm since 2001. Steep ground has been planted to grass. The last historic barn was removed in 2008.

**Contact:** Bill Swannack, 33002 SR 23, Lamont, WA 99017

***The Turnbow/St. John Farm, est. 1880*** Page 170

**Current Owner:** Ben and Janet Barstow, Donna St. John  
**Relationship to 1989 Owner:** granddaughters and grandson-in-law  
**Current Operator:** Ben Barstow  
**Relationship to Owner:** one of the owners

Original Acres Retained		Acres			Crops or Livestock Raised	
1989	2014	Farmed	Owned	Operated	1988	2014
160	160	254	774	1,098	Wheat, barley, peas, hay, sheep	Winter and spring wheat, winter and spring barley, seed wheat, peas, alfalfa

**Changes in the Past 25 Years:** Don St. John owned the farm from 1991 to 2001. His wife Alene St. John was the owner from 2002 to 2005. Since then, their daughters, Janet Barstow and Donna St. John, along with Janet's husband Ben Barstow, are owners.

**Additional Information:** The 1898 farmhouse and 1908 barn are still in use.

**Contact:** Ben and Janet Barstow, 13201 SR 272, Palouse, WA 99161

***The Van Tine Farm, est. 1883*** Page 170

**Current Owner:** Neil B. VanTine, Mildred E. Sarver  
**Relationship to 1989 Owner:** same  
**Current Operator:** Don VanTine  
**Relationship to Owner:** Neil's son, Mildred's nephew

Original Acres Retained		Acres			Crops or Livestock Raised	
1989	2014	Farmed	Owned	Operated	1988	2014
120	120	1,179	1,420	2,016	Wheat, barley, peas, hogs, timber	Wheat, barley, garbanzos, peas, hogs

**Changes in the Past 25 Years:** Grown in acres, more hogs, incorporated this past year. Neil retired and his grandson, Mark VanTine (sixth generation), is now farming with his father Don VanTine.

**Additional Information:** Farm owner Neil VanTine passed away Oct. 23, 2014. His half-share of the original land will belong to his children, Don and Craig VanTine and Debbie Duncan.

**Contact:** Don VanTine, 2001 VanTine Rd., Garfield, WA 99130

***The Weber Farm, est. 1875*** Page 171

**Current Owner:** Yvonne Weber and Weber Homestead LLC  
**Relationship to 1989 Owner:** one of the owners and her children  
**Current Operator:** David Weber  
**Relationship to Owner:** one of the owners

Original Acres Retained		Acres			Crops or Livestock Raised	
1989	2014	Farmed	Owned	Operated	1988	2014
160	160	925	1,145	1,145	Wheat, barley, hay, cattle	Wheat, canola



**Changes in the Past 25 Years:** Purchased adjoining farmland over the last 10 years to increase acreage. The original house has been remodeled. The barn, shop and granary still stand.

**Additional Information:** Charles Weber passed away in summer, 2002. His sister, Lorraine Payne, passed away in 2003. Yvonne, Charles' widow, still lives on the farm, which is operated by her son, David Weber, with assistance from his brothers, Mark and Vernon Weber.

**Contact:** David Weber, 3501 Parvin Rd., Colfax, WA 99111

***The Whealen Farm, est. 1869***

Page 172

**Current Owner:** Mary Ann Kissler Wigen, Jo Anne Kissler, Stacy Black, Erin Black, Peter and Brandy Wigen

**Relationship to 1989 Owner:** Mary Ann and JoAnne are Loretta Kissler's daughters. Stacy and Erin are Doris Caldwell's granddaughters. Peter and Brandy are Mary Ann's son and daughter-in-law.

**Current Operator:** Peter Wigen

**Relationship to Owner:** one of the owners

Original Acres Retained		Acres			Crops or Livestock Raised	
1989	2014	Farmed	Owned	Operated	1988	2014
160	160	2,159	2,159	2,159	Wheat, barley, and cattle	Wheat, barley, alfalfa, cattle

**Changes in the Past 25 Years:** Cropping practices have changed from tilling the soil and rod-weeding summer fallow to direct seeding, along with use of GPS to reduce overlaps and inputs. Erosion has been greatly reduced, and in most cases eliminated, by leaving crop residue on top of soil.

**Additional Information:** Ownership of the farm passed to the current owners in 2011.

**Contact:** Mary Ann Wigen, 501 N. Hauser Ave., Colfax, WA 99111

***The Wittman Farm, est. 1888***

Page 173

**Current Owner:** William and Juanita Kinzer

**Relationship to 1989 Owner:** same

**Current Operator:** Jeff and Roy Kinzer

**Relationship to Owner:** sons

Original Acres Retained		Acres			Crops or Livestock Raised	
1989	2014	Farmed	Owned	Operated	1988	2014
250	250	250	1,590	1,390	Wheat, barley, dry peas, green peas, lentils, hay	Wheat, peas, garbanzos

**Changes in the Past 25 Years:** The original chicken house, smokehouse, barn and the home still stand. The house has been remodeled.

**Additional Information:** Mary Wittman's son, Ed Wittman, and his wife Ange farmed the land from 1947 to 1960. William and Juanita Kinzer began farming it in 1961 and purchased it from Mary, his grandmother, in 1986.

**Contact:** William and Juanita Kinzer, 2802 SR 195, Uniontown, WA 99179



## *Non-Participating Farms*

The following 30 farms in Whitman County did not participate in the 2014 project to reconnect with Washington's Centennial Farms. This list notes the page the farm appears in the 1989 Centennial Farms book.

Belsby Farms Co., est. 1888, p. 131  
The Old Blank Homestead, est. 1885, p. 133  
The Brown Farm, est. 1876, p. 134  
The O.M. Collins Farm, est. 1884, p. 135  
The Crumbaker Farm, est. 1877, p. 137  
The DeLong Farm, est. 1869, p. 138  
The Draper Farm, est. 1873, p. 139  
The Drew Farm, est. 1881, p. 139  
The Feenan Farm, est. 1877, p. 140  
The Folsom Farm, est. 1881, p. 153  
The Gates/Brownell Farm, est. 1878, p. 141  
The Gordon Farm, est. 1885, p. 142  
The Gragg Farm, est. 1878, p. 143  
The Harlan Farm, est. 1877, p. 145  
Hatley Ranch, est. 1877, p. 146  
The Hehl Farm, est. 1878, p. 146  
The Hofer Farm, est. 1877, p. 147  
The Holbrook Farm, est. 1881, p. 148  
The Jeremiah Kelly Farm, est. 1888, p. 152  
The Logan Farm, est. 1877, p. 156  
The Valentine Mayer Farm, est. 1887, p. 158  
McNeilly Ranch, Inc., est. 1870, p. 158  
The Nathan Myers Centennial Farm, est. 1878, p. 161  
The Richardson Ranch, est. 1880, p. 163  
The Schweiter Farm, est. 1886, p. 164  
The Sever Farm, est. 1882, p. 165  
The Shields Farm, est. 1883, p. 166  
The Swift Farm, est. 1869, p. 169  
The Westacott Farm, est. 1877, p. 171  
The Enoch White Farm, est. 1882, p. 173