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.

Of the 82 Centennial Farms in Whitman County, 52 responded to the 2014 questionnaire. Of those, 48 continue to be owned by a descendant of the 1889 landowner. Whitman is home to 20 percent of the state’s Centennial Farms.

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 include 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.

**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 productivity and stewardship since pioneers broke out the prairie with horse-drawn walking plows. “Together we’ve increased production 250 percent, reduced waterborne 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

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Original Acres Retained</th>
<th>Acres Farmed</th>
<th>Acres Owned</th>
<th>Acres Operated</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>120</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>120</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Original Acres Retained</th>
<th>Acres Farmed</th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>160</td>
<td>160</td>
<td>345</td>
<td>445</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Original Acres Retained</th>
<th>Acres Farmed</th>
<th>Acres Owned</th>
<th>Acres Operated</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>60</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>3,200</td>
<td>1,085</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Original Acres Retained</th>
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<th>Acres Operated</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3,200</td>
<td>1,085</td>
<td>3,200</td>
<td>1,085</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

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.
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

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

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

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

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

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Original Acres Retained</th>
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<th>Acres Operated</th>
<th>Crops or Livestock Raised</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>320</td>
<td>320</td>
<td>550</td>
<td>1,550</td>
<td>Wheat, alfalfa, winter canola</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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 Robert A. Crow Farm, est. 1880

Current Owner: Brian Crow
Relationship to 1989 Owner: grandson
Current Operator: Brian Crow
Relationship to Owner: same

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>60</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>586</td>
<td>2,724</td>
<td>Wheat, peas, lentils, and barley</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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 Charlie P. Crow Farm, est. 1880

Charlie P. Crow, Inc., est. 1882

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Original Acres Retained</th>
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<th>Crops or Livestock Raised</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>60</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>586</td>
<td>2,724</td>
<td>Wheat, barley</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

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

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Original Acres Retained</th>
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<th>Acres Operated</th>
<th>Crops or Livestock Raised 1989</th>
<th>Crops or Livestock Raised 2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1874</td>
<td>1874</td>
<td>1874</td>
<td>Wheat, barley, lentils, peas</td>
<td>Wheat, lentils, peas</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

The Goldsworthy Farm, est. 1880

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Acres Operated</th>
<th>Crops or Livestock Raised 1989</th>
<th>Crops or Livestock Raised 2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1880</td>
<td>1880</td>
<td>1880</td>
<td>Wheat, barley</td>
<td>Wheat</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

The Freels Heirs Farm, est. 1886

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Acres Operated</th>
<th>Crops or Livestock Raised 1989</th>
<th>Crops or Livestock Raised 2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1886</td>
<td>1886</td>
<td>1886</td>
<td>Winter wheat, spring wheat, spring barley</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

Grove Ranch, est. 1883

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
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 Lamberton, 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

Current Owner: Guske Family LLC: Lester Guske Sr.

Relationship to 1989 Owner: same

Current Operator: Lester Guske Jr.

Relationship to Owner: son

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Original Acres Retained</th>
<th>Acres Farmed</th>
<th>Acres Owned</th>
<th>Acres Operated</th>
<th>Crops or Livestock Raised</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1989</td>
<td>160</td>
<td>160</td>
<td>1,091</td>
<td>Wheat, barley, alfalfa, cattle, hogs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>160</td>
<td>840</td>
<td>1,600</td>
<td>Wheat, hay, cattle</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Acres Owned</th>
<th>Acres Operated</th>
<th>Crops or Livestock Raised</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1989</td>
<td>160</td>
<td>1,100</td>
<td>about 1,200</td>
<td>Wheat, lentils, peas, barley, horses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>160</td>
<td>1,300</td>
<td>1,300</td>
<td>Wheat, barley</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Original Acres</th>
<th>Acres</th>
<th>Crops or Livestock Raised</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>160</td>
<td>154</td>
<td>Wheat, barley, peas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>600</td>
<td>Wheat, lentils, garbanzos, peas, oats</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Original Acres</th>
<th>Acres</th>
<th>Crops or Livestock Raised</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>520</td>
<td>520</td>
<td>Wheat, barley, peas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1,010</td>
<td>Wheat, barley, peas, some livestock</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Original Acres</th>
<th>Acres</th>
<th>Crops or Livestock Raised</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>140</td>
<td>129</td>
<td>Wheat, barley</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>140</td>
<td>Wheat, barley</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Original Acres Retained</th>
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<th>Acres Operated</th>
<th>Crops or Livestock Raised</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>853</td>
<td>750</td>
<td>Wheat, lentils, peas, barley</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**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

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**The Hughes Farm est. 1878**

**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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Original Acres Retained</th>
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<th>Acres Operated</th>
<th>Crops or Livestock Raised</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>66</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>350</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>Wheat, barley, peas</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**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

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**The Huntley Farm est. 1887**

**Current Owner:** Necia Huntley

**Relationship to 1989 Owner:** same

**Current Operator:** Wayne and Steve Henning

**Relationship to Owner:** friends of family

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Original Acres Retained</th>
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<th>Acres Operated</th>
<th>Crops or Livestock Raised</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>80</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>887</td>
<td>800</td>
<td>Wheat, barley, peas, lentils, Whiteface cattle</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**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

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**The Adam Kile Farm est. 1881**

**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

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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>160</td>
<td>160</td>
<td>1,650</td>
<td>1,650</td>
<td>Wheat, barley, peas</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

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

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

**Relationship to 1989 Owner:** same

**Current Operator:** Ronald J. Kile

**Relationship to Owner:** same
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

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

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 Love Farm est. 1881

Current Owner: Wendell Love and Marilyn Cunningham
Relationship to 1989 Owner: same
Current Operator: Warren Neal
Relationship to Owner: friend

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
**Washington’s Centennial Farms, 25 Years Later**

**Whitman County - Page 11**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Original Acres</th>
<th>Acres</th>
<th>Crops or Livestock Raised</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Retained</td>
<td>Farmed</td>
<td>Owned</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1989</td>
<td>160</td>
<td>584</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>160</td>
<td>34,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**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’s 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

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**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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Original Acres</th>
<th>Acres</th>
<th>Crops or Livestock Raised</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Retained</td>
<td>Farmed</td>
<td>Owned</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1989</td>
<td>160</td>
<td>34,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>2,050</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**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

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**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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Original Acres</th>
<th>Acres</th>
<th>Crops or Livestock Raised</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Retained</td>
<td>Farmed</td>
<td>Owned</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1989</td>
<td>320</td>
<td>120</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Original Acres Retained</th>
<th>Acres Farmed</th>
<th>Acres Owned</th>
<th>Acres Operated</th>
<th>Crops or Livestock Raised</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>93</td>
<td>93</td>
<td>777</td>
<td>303</td>
<td>Wheat, barley, some fruit, deer, pheasants Hard red wheat, dark northern spring wheat, garbanzos, soft winter wheat</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

**Mraz Farms**, est. 1877

Current Owner: James and Gerald Mraz

Relationship to 1989 Owner: same

Current Operator: James and Gerald Mraz

Relationship to Owner: same

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Original Acres Retained</th>
<th>Acres Farmed</th>
<th>Acres Owned</th>
<th>Acres Operated</th>
<th>Crops or Livestock Raised</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>160</td>
<td>160</td>
<td>655</td>
<td>280</td>
<td>Wheat, barley, dry peas Wheat, barley, peas</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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 Wawaiwi Rd., Colton, WA 99113

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

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, 7327 Huckleberry Rd. N.W., Olympia, WA 98502

**The Moys Farm**, est. 1877

Current Owner: Georgie Leinweber

Relationship to 1989 Owner: one of the owners

Current Operator: Todd Strader

Relationship to Owner: son-in-law

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Original Acres Retained</th>
<th>Acres Farmed</th>
<th>Acres Owned</th>
<th>Acres Operated</th>
<th>Crops or Livestock Raised</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>160</td>
<td>160</td>
<td>640</td>
<td>1,284</td>
<td>Wheat, garbanzos</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

**Washington’s Centennial Farms, 25 Years Later**
The O'Neil Farm est. 1884

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

Current Owner: Ray and Arlene (Prince) Beale
Relationship to 1989 Owner: daughter and son-in-law

Current Operator: Loren Beale
Relationship to Owner: son

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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>200</td>
<td>2,000</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>1,235</td>
<td>1,235</td>
<td>1,235</td>
<td>Wheat</td>
<td>barley</td>
<td>1,235</td>
<td>1,235</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

Current Owner: Carol Druffel
Relationship to 1989 Owner: one of the owners

Current Operator: Leroy Druffel
Relationship to Owner: son

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<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>230</td>
<td>220</td>
<td>230</td>
<td>220</td>
<td>220</td>
<td>220</td>
<td>Wheat</td>
<td>peas, barley</td>
<td>220</td>
<td>220</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Original Acres Retained</th>
<th>Acres Farmed</th>
<th>Acres Owned</th>
<th>Acres Operated</th>
<th>Crops or Livestock Raised</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1989</td>
<td>2014</td>
<td>1877</td>
<td>1989</td>
<td>Retained</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>3,000</td>
<td>1,700</td>
<td>4,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Original Acres Retained</th>
<th>Acres Farmed</th>
<th>Acres Owned</th>
<th>Acres Operated</th>
<th>Crops or Livestock Raised</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1989</td>
<td>2014</td>
<td>1877</td>
<td>1989</td>
<td>Retained</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>156</td>
<td>154</td>
<td>184</td>
<td>154</td>
<td>1,200</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**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 Squires Farm, est. 1883

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Acres Operated</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1989</td>
<td>2014</td>
<td>1883</td>
<td>1989</td>
<td>Retained</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>156</td>
<td>154</td>
<td>184</td>
<td>154</td>
<td>1,200</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**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 James Madison Small Farm, est. 1877

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Original Acres Retained</th>
<th>Acres Farmed</th>
<th>Acres Owned</th>
<th>Acres Operated</th>
<th>Crops or Livestock Raised</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1989</td>
<td>2014</td>
<td>1877</td>
<td>1989</td>
<td>Retained</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>320</td>
<td>320</td>
<td>320</td>
<td>320</td>
<td>320</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**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 Stratton Farm, est. 1877

**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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Original Acres Retained</th>
<th>Acres Farmed</th>
<th>Acres Owned</th>
<th>Acres Operated</th>
<th>Crops or Livestock Raised</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1989</td>
<td>2014</td>
<td>1877</td>
<td>1989</td>
<td>Retained</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>990</td>
<td>400</td>
<td>560</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**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

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

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

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

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

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

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
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.


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

The Whealen Farm, est. 1869

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

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

Current Owner: William and Juanita Kinzer

Relationship to 1989 Owner: same

Current Operator: Jeff and Roy Kinzer

Relationship to Owner: sons

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>160</td>
<td>2,159</td>
<td>2,159</td>
<td>2,159</td>
<td>Wheat, barley, and cattle</td>
<td>Wheat, barley, and cattle</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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