

2019 Century Farm and Ranch Awards

The state's agricultural industry conducts an annual search for family-owned farms and ranches, which have stood through 100 years, as hallmarks of Utah's agricultural heritage.

The Century Farm and Ranch award is prestigious to the recipients and recognizes generations of hard work. According to the Utah Farm Bureau, "The Utah Century Farm & Ranch Designation will honor the commitment of Utah farm and ranch families to the state's agricultural industry, the bold determination farmers and ranchers have exhibited throughout the development of our state's customs and culture, and their affirmation of the vision of the pioneers in assisting the desert to "blossom as a rose."

The rapid growth and development in Summit County poses another challenge to the agricultural community here, and underscores the importance of operations like these in preserving Summit County's agricultural heritage.

This year we are honored to have two family farms within our county receive this award. *The Richins Family Homestead and the Double Diamond Ranch.*

They meet the following criteria:

1. Century Farm and Ranch awardees must meet the definition of a Farm and Ranch as set forth in the Utah Farmland Assessment Act (Greenbelt) and has received that designation by the County Assessor.
2. The Farm and Ranch must have been in continuous ownership and operation by a family for at least 100 years from the present calendar year back. Except for the original owner, lineal descent must be traced through either a son, daughter, grandson or granddaughter (including in-laws) of the previous owner/operator.

Richins Family Homestead History

In the words of the Richins Family:

Jared Richins was born in Echo in 1884. He married Ethel from Hyrum, Utah in 1905. Together they raised ten children while homesteading the Richins Family Homestead which was deeded by President Woodrow Wilson in August 1919.

The 159.44 acres sits in Carruth Canyon on the west side of the Interstate. The homestead is directly adjacent to the soon-to-be-developed Wohali property. The homestead started as a sheep ranch. Jared fenced the property, cleared fields and planted wheat.

Jared's son Lynn took over the homestead in 1950 and started raising cattle instead of sheep. Lynn also developed a spring on the homestead that continues to provide the purest, coldest water to this day. Lynn often said that his cows were happy cows because they drank the spring water.

Today, Lynn's sons Michael and Kevin oversee the homestead. The original home is long gone; the cows continue to happily graze the land. Several times a year three generations of Richins gather and create new memories on the Richins Family Homestead. Jared and Ethel Richins' last surviving child, Ilene Richins, now 94, continues to be invited and welcome to the land.

On Saturday, July 6th, over 90 descendants of Jared and Ethel Richins gathered on the Richins Family Homestead to celebrate the farm's centennial. Many new friendships were made with long, lost, old relatives. At the end of the day, it was agreed we would gather more frequently than only once a century.

Double Diamond Ranch History:

The Double Diamond Ranch was bought jointly by Milo Andrus Jr. and his four sons: Milo, George, Joseph and Willard. Joseph moved his family to the ranch in the summer of 1915. His brother, George was the manager for the first year and then he moved back to Holladay. Joseph took over management at that time and later he bought the other shares of the ranch. Joseph and Harriet started their new ranch life armed with qualities rooted in their own heritage of pioneer faith, vision, hope and work ethic. Together they created this beautiful property. Their home was built on love, faith, service, and fun; a home where a productive and meaningful way of life was fostered. They loved and valued education. Both Joseph and Harriet attended the University of Utah and all of their children went to Utah State Agricultural College. Their son, Millard served and died in the military in WW II. They were patriots and stalwart contributing citizens of this great country. They served in the community, planning and contributing to the roads and water development, providing engineering expertise, and helping to bring in electricity and the new telephone line. Joseph served on the South Summit School Board for 17 years, being president for most of that time. He was president of the Upper Weber River Water Users Association for many years. He and Levi Pearson worked to get the Upper Weber River Users rights established and protected during the adjudication of the Weber River system in 1939. Because of Harriet's interest in education, she started a traveling library and she taught sewing as a 4-H leader for many years. They served in The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints with love and devotion. Joseph was Bishop of the Marion Ward for eighteen years and Harriet was the stake Primary president. There was a spirit of culture and refinement found through the arts that permeated their home. The fine art of homemaking was ever present. The ranch had fine horses and Herford cattle. There was a forward thinking perspective to the future benefit of others.

In 1957 Joseph and Harriet's son, Roscoe, took over managing the ranch. In time his son-in-law, Lambert Lewis, did much of the farming and still is running the land today. A daughter, Iona Andrus, renovated the family home in 1987.