

HOUSE BILL 901

By Todd

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 43,
relative to century farms.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 43, Chapter 25, is amended by adding the following new section:

(a) This act is known and may be cited as the "Tennessee Century Farms Act."

(b) It is the intent of the general assembly to recognize the historical significance of family farms that have been in operation in this state for over one hundred (100) years and to highlight their contribution to agriculture in and the economy of this state.

(c) As used in this section:

(1) "Century farm" means a farm that:

(A) Is composed of ten (10) or more acres of the original farm owned by a founder of the farm;

(B) Produces at least one thousand dollars (\$1,000) in annual revenue;

(C) Has remained in the founder's family continuously for at least one hundred (100) years; and

(D) Is owned in whole or in part by at least one (1) resident of this state; and

(2) "Commissioner" means the commissioner of the department of agriculture.

(d) The commissioner shall establish a century farms program to recognize century farms in continuous operation for more than one hundred (100) years in this state for purposes of promoting awareness of century farms and the interests of agriculture in this state.

(e) The commissioner shall:

(1) Operate the program within the existing resources of the department of agriculture;

(2) Establish the criteria for qualification as a century farm under the program;

(3) Designate a qualified historic preservation center to administer the program; and

(4) Design and provide a specialty commemorative sign in recognition of a century farm to be provided to the owner of the farm at no cost to the owner.

Commemorative signs may also be designed and provided to owners of century farms to recognize each additional fifty (50) years that a farm remains in continuous operation and qualifies for participation in the program. Additional signs may be purchased by a qualified owner at a cost specified by the commissioner. The commissioner may collaborate with the Tennessee historical commission and the historic preservation center administering the program for purposes of designing signs in accordance with this subdivision (e)(4).

(f) In administering the program, the historic preservation center designated pursuant to subdivision (e)(3) shall:

(1) Maintain a database of century farms and serve as a clearing house with respect to information on century farms and the program;

(2) Collaborate with the department of agriculture and the Tennessee historical commission for purposes of administering the program; and

(3) Educate the public and promote awareness with respect to Tennessee's historic century farms in this state as well as their contribution to agriculture in this state.

SECTION 2. This act takes effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.