



Glen and Jean McKenzie Farm

Overview

In a remarkable and generous gift designed to benefit Eastern Oregon University, Glen and Jean McKenzie established the Oregon Agriculture Foundation to manage their family farm and ranch to benefit EOU after their deaths. Jean McKenzie passed away in the early 1990s and Glen passed away in August 2006.

McKenzie Farm Facts

- The McKenzie Farm was established in 1875 by Tolbert Glenn (Glen McKenzie's maternal grandfather) on 160 acres west of Summerville, Oregon, in the Grand Ronde Valley. The farm, officially designated as a "Century Farm," was owned and operated by the Glenn/McKenzie families until Glen McKenzie passed away in 2006.
- Today the farm is comprised of 507 acres of dry cultivated cropland, 147 acres of dry hay and pasture, 169 acres of wet pasture, 20 acres of timber and 10 acres of homestead for a total of 853 acres located on either side of McKenzie Lane (note: the homestead and outbuildings have been sold).
- Included on the farm were two barns, two houses, a bunkhouse, a shop, various other outbuildings and an assortment of farm machinery.
- In recent years the farm has produced wheat, barley, hay and a small herd of cattle.
- Today, the farm ground is leased to Trico Farms and to Randy Glenn.
- Several streams, including Willow Creek, run through the farm. Willow Creek is being setup for a federal conservation easement program to restore fish habitat and provide stream restoration.

Management of the Farm

Structure of the Gift

- The McKenzie Family Trust, established by Glen and Jean McKenzie in 1991, designated the McKenzie Farm to be given to the "...Oregon Agriculture Foundation, an Oregon non-profit corporation and subsidiary of the Eastern Oregon College Foundation..."
- The Oregon Agriculture Foundation (OAF) in cooperation with the EOU Foundation oversees operations and activities on the McKenzie Farm. The finances and day-to-day business of each organization are separate and distinct from each other in accordance with state and federal regulations.
- The OAF is a non-profit, 501 (c)(3) corporation governed by a board of 4-6 directors who are appointed by and serve at the pleasure of the EOU Foundation Board of Directors.
- While the farm is intended to benefit EOU, the University does not own it. Rather, it is managed by the OAF Board and therefore must be viewed as private property.

Guiding principles for operation of the farm (from OAF Articles of Incorporation):

1. The purpose of the farm is to provide hands-on farming and agricultural education as a part of the regular curriculum offered at EOU.
2. The farm is to be operated in an efficient, productive and profitable manner utilizing farming techniques and methods of the local community including traditional techniques if possible. Glen did not intend for the farm to be used for experimental purposes.

Current status of the farm:

1. Farmland: current leased out to two local farmers on sharecrop basis. Cattle operations have ceased.
2. Timber: the property north of McKenzie Lane is being managed primarily for infestation and blow-down.
3. Farmhouse: significant repairs were made to the main farmhouse and it was sold within the past few years; it is currently occupied.
4. Property management: the Board is adding part of the farm—specifically around Willow Creek—to a Wildlife Refuge Program or Conservation Easement.
5. Western Larch Seed Orchard: the Board has agreed to the establishment of a seed orchard for the Western Larch on a section of the farm.
6. Education use: the Board is keenly interested in using the farm for educational purposes.

Contact Information

University Advancement coordinates all communication and activities of parties involved with the McKenzie Farm.

Inquiries should be directed to:

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