

## Written Profile

---



**Farm:** Grandpa's Home Place

**Location:** Omak, WA—Okanogan County

**Date of Origination:** 1910

**Industry Sector(s):** Orchard: Apples, Pears, Cherries and more

"God's grace, hard work, long hours, love for what you do, love for the land and its bounty, and love for the wildlife and its young" are what Jim and Sandee Freese say will always kindle the desire of farmers to learn new methods of producing better crops while saving water and increasing the health of the soil. Demonstrating this is how they have made their contribution to **Agriculture's Lasting Heritage.**

Before coming to the Okanogan Highlands in 1902, Jim's maternal grandparents parents were farmers in Missouri and their parents had also been farmers for generations prior. When they moved by train to Washington they brought their farming items with them - even some cows! Upon arriving, farmland was bought, a cabin was built, and eight years were spent there until they decided to move to the south part of the county. It was here in Omak, in 1910, that they bought another farm, where "Grandpa's Home Place" remains to this day.

The Freese family believes that, "if you don't take care of the land, it will not produce." Farms that continue in operation after 100-plus years are those that feed the soil, efficiently irrigate, fertilize and feed the crops in order to produce a quality product. "Without a good product to sell, your income will go down and so will your farm," explains the Freese family. "Century farms have sustainable practices because century farmers are the ones that love the land and what they produce."

The Freese family has been with the Farm Bureau for several years and members have served on the Okanogan County Farm Bureau board. They recognize Farm Bureau has helped support the fight to keep their land and water rights. Farm Bureau has also helped with the Retro Safety Program and has kept farmers up to date with the regulations to have a safe farm. Farm Bureau, "has been a network with other farmers who are now friends and keeps farmers current with what others are doing in their businesses." This support helps farmers learn more techniques and strategies for crop production and land management. Jim and Sandee do not feel they could have gotten through the last couple of years of "regulatory mountains" without the help and encouragement of Farm Bureau. They are members for life!

"There has to be a love of the land to continue farming year after year. This love is not only shown in the crops you produce, but in the children that see your love and your hard work," Jim and Sandee share. "They, in turn, accept the hard work and continue on the land because they have seen your love for the land." We extend our appreciation to the investment made by the Freese family, and we celebrate their contribution to **Agriculture's Lasting Heritage.**

