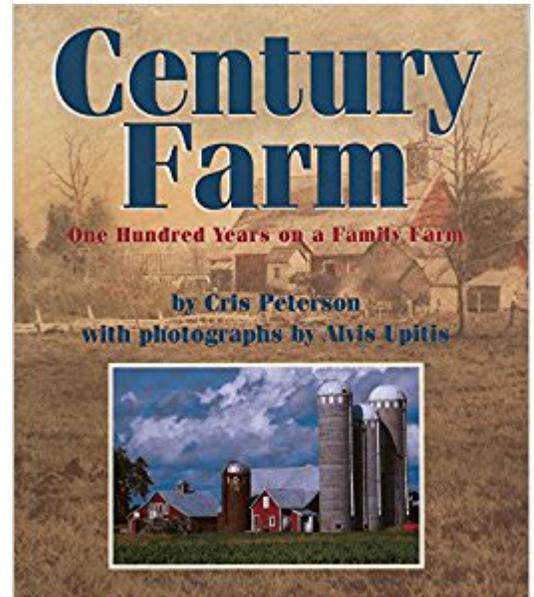


# Century Farm

## *A lesson from the New Jersey Agricultural Society Learning Through Gardening Program*

Overview: A Century Farm is a farm that has been continuously worked for 100 years. In her book Century Farm, Cris Peterson shares the story of her husband's family farm as it grew from a barn, house, and granary in the 1890s to a thriving dairy farm today. Over the past hundred years, many things on the farm have changed, but many things have also stayed the same. Corn now grows on the same land where timber was cut to build the family house and barn. Cows are milked in the same barn, vegetables grow in the same garden, and one family is still working together to make the farm a viable business. The book is filled with beautiful old photos selected from a century's worth of family albums as well as family pictures taken in recent years.



Grades: 3-5

Objectives:

*Social Studies:* Students will be able to describe the changes that have taken place in dairy and grain farming over the past hundred years.

*Language Arts:* Students will be able to compare and contrast life on a family farm one hundred years ago and in the present.

Materials:

The book Century Farm by Cris Peterson with photographs by Alvis Uptis

### Procedure:

Read Century Farm, stopping during the reading to highlight the changes that occurred in farming and in the lives of the family over the past 100 years.

Younger students make a Venn diagram illustrating how the farming methods and way of life is different now than one hundred years ago, and the way that family's life and farming has stayed the same.

Older students can write compare and contrast paragraphs about the book Century Farm, describing the changes that have occurred in the lives of the family and the ways that farming life has remained unchanged.

### Evaluation:

*Social Studies and Language Arts Assessment:* Venn diagram or short two-paragraph essay comparing and contrasting life on the family farm in the last century and today.

### Extension:

Are there any century farms that have been in operation for 100 years in your area? If so, consider inviting a farmer from a local century farm to speak to your class to describe how life and work on his or her farm has changed over the past 100 years.

