

UPDATED

FARMLAND PROTECTION SUCCESSES: STORIES FROM ACROSS OHIO

Brief #2007-03

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THE CENTER FOR FARMLAND POLICY INNOVATION:

"Progress through Local Partnerships and Programming"

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INTRODUCTION

Back in the Fall of 2006, the OSU Center for Farmland Policy Innovation (CFFPI) published a policy brief entitled “Farmland Protection Successes: Stories from Across Ohio”. The purpose was to demonstrate the vast amount of farmland protection activities, taking diverse forms, across the State of Ohio. Indeed as was pointed out in the first brief, “You needn’t go far in Ohio to find locally-driven, creative, ambitious and successful farmland protection projects”.

Again we attempt to document stories from across the state. While this new brief covers some exciting new stories, it also updates those from last time around. These stories have been compiled through a series of first-hand interviews and research of published materials. In addition, we have included a couple stories from outside of Ohio that compliment some of the activities in our state.

The document is broken into five sections: funding options; partnerships and organizations; land use tools; citizen awareness, education and participation; and CFFPI partnership projects. We attempted to place each story into the most appropriate section to lend clarity to the document, recognizing that many of these stories could fit in multiple categories.

ABOUT THE CENTER:

Established in 2006, the mission of The Ohio State University’s Center for Farmland Policy Innovation (CFFPI) is to enable Ohio local governments to achieve farmland protection priorities. The Center provides educational programming and partners with Ohio communities on innovative farmland policy projects. Our policy briefs are developed in conjunction with local government roundtable discussions, and are available with other resources on the CFFPI web site, <http://cffpi.osu.edu>. Please visit our web site to learn more about the Center and other opportunities we offer.

We hope that you find these stories to be useful and inspiring. We are certain that the stories contained in this document do not cover all local successes, and we ask that you help us make this document complete. Please go to <http://cffpi.osu.edu> and add your story.

Finally, thank you to all those who contributed to this document, too numerous to name, but mostly reflected in the contact information given for each story.

PART I. MAKING THE GRADE: FUNDING OPTIONS

1.1 Voluntary Funding Options: 1% Tax for Green Space Preservation - UPDATED

Contact: Krista Magaw, Tecumseh Land Trust; 937.767.9490; krista@tecumsehlandtrust.org

1% for Green Space is a voluntary means for businesses and customers to contribute to preserve natural areas and farmland in Miami Township. Based on a decade old program in Colorado, Tecumseh Land Trust initiated this program about two years ago and currently over 50 percent of retail establishments in Yellow Springs are involved in the program, with 29 businesses participating, and about a dozen more businesses planning to join before the end of 2007. Their participation is voluntary, and stems from Tecumseh Land Trust’s recruitment efforts, which included multiple public meetings and other meetings with the local chamber of commerce. Each business posts signs explaining the program and adds one percent to each customer purchase, unless the customer declines the opportunity to contribute. This has happened rarely, perhaps because the natural beauty of the area attracts many shoppers to the community. Because of the overwhelming support of the project, in 2007 many businesses began adding the tax as a matter of course, asking customers to decide if they would rather not contribute.

Funds collected through the program can only be used to pay for preservation projects in the township. The decision to allocate funds in this

way is an internal policy of Tecumseh Land Trust. They cannot be spent on general educational activities or other costs beyond three percent for administration of the program. The public has had a good response to the program and in some cases customers have asked to contribute additional dollars to the cause.

In 2007, a 100-acre farm in Miami Township was protected and funded, in part, through the 1% for Green Space tax. The Fund provided \$8,000 of the monies needed to purchase an easement on the farm; \$58,000 were donated by Miami Township, \$66,000 dollars were donated by the owner, and a \$132,000 match was provided for through the Federal Farm and Ranchland Protection Fund (FRPP). Bob Barcus, one of the project organizers, believes that the fund was critical in demonstrating local support for the preservation of this and other local farmlands.

Bob Barcus spoke in 2006 at the 7th Annual Ohio Farmland Preservation Summit about 1% for Green Space, and received numerous inquiries at the conference from other Ohio land trusts interested in the program. One of these land trusts, Appalachia Ohio Alliance, has begun exploring the potential for implementing a similar program in the Hocking Hills region of Ohio. For more information on their approach to the Green Space fund, contact Steve Goodwin, Appalachia Ohio Alliance, 740.817.1759, swgoodwin@earthlink.net. Since the 2006 publication of Farmland Protection Successes: Stories from Across Ohio the 1% for Green Space Program has also been covered by the Land Trust Alliance Magazine, and Tecumseh Land Trust has received over half a dozen requests from land trusts around the country for information on the program.

1.2 One for the Grape: Linking Tourist Dollars to Preservation - NEW

Contact: Maurine Orndorff, Lake County Soil and Water Conservation District; 440.350.5863; morndorff@lakecountyohio.org

Lake County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) and Ohio Wine Producers Asso-

ciation (OWPA) are working with the grape industry in Northeast Ohio to protect the unique vineyard lands of Lake, Geauga and Ashtabula counties through agricultural land preservation and viticultural sustainability practices. As a response to the great pressures on the vineyard lands through increased development, rising land prices, loss of the land to other types of production and loss of supporting agricultural infrastructure, an innovative new funding program titled One for the Grape was launched in the summer of 2007 to benefit the region's wine and grape industry. It is a locally generated and controlled fund sustained by patron donations, grants and federal and state programs. It will be directed by a board of local growers and vintners with technical and administrative assistance provided by Lake SWCD.

Donations for One for the Grape will be collected at cooperating point-of-sale locations in Northeast Ohio, including wineries, restaurants and bed and breakfasts. Patrons will be asked to make a donation of \$1.00 for every purchase that they make. This fund-raising technique, inspired by a decade old program in Colorado, draws a strong connection between tourist activities and the sustainability of the agricultural lands upon which tourism relies.

The funds will be available to be used as local match for vineyard preservation grants; as cost-share and low-interest loans for infrastructure costs such as tiling, wind machines, planting new vineyards and transitioning from concords to wine grapes; and to sponsor research, develop new technologies and provide capital for local processing of value added products.

1.3 Protecting Agriculture by Promoting Farm Viability: Utilization of a Revolving Loan Fund

Contact: Anita Stocker, Geauga County Community and Economic Development; 440.285.2222 ext. 1792

Gauga County Planning Commission and Community and Economic Development Department have collaborated to use a Local Revolving Loan Fund Program to support and pro-

mote the county's agricultural producers. The Geauga County Local Revolving Loan Fund (LRLF) is a program whereby local county funds will be loaned for the purpose of economic development, including financial assistance, for permanent public improvements. The program is administered by the Geauga County Department of Community and Economic Development and will provide direct loans to qualified farm (and other) applicants with fixed interest rates below prevailing interest rates.

The LRLF program will fund new businesses or the expansion of existing businesses. Each project is considered on its own merits and the overall impact to the county as measured by job creation, tax base creation, removal of blighting influences, the potential for spin-off industries, redevelopment of existing vacant facilities, use of new technologies and/or the diversification of the economy.



*The O'Reilly Farm, Geauga County, located in the LRLF area
Source: Amalie Lipstreu*

1.4 Alternative Funding Option: Using a Transfer Fee to Fund Land Trust Stewardship and Violation Enforcement Activities - UPDATED

Contact: Ed Meyers, Western Reserve Land Conservancy; 440.729.9621; emeyers@wrlc.cc;
Website: <http://www.wrlc.cc/>

Since 1999, Chagrin River Land Conservancy (now merged with other land trusts to create Western Reserve Land Conservancy—see section 2.7) has been using transfer fees as an alternative to an endowment donation to help fund their stewardship and violation enforcement efforts. This funding technique has recently been adopted by two other Ohio land trusts, Appalachia Ohio Alliance and Owl Creek Conservancy, and is used nationwide by several other organizations, including Jackson Hole Land Trust (Wyoming) and Lowcountry Open Land Trust (South Carolina).

When granting a conservation easement, the land owner is not required to pay any funds up front to Western Reserve; the transfer fee is activated when the land is transferred for value (typically a sale) and title passes to a new owner (it does not apply to transfers for no consideration, such as through inheritance or gift). At the point of the transfer the land trust receives a percentage of the sale price of the property, usually two percent. The transfer fees apply in perpetuity and will be activated by any subsequent sales of the land. In the case of the land being owned by a public agency or organization where transfers are infrequent, a transfer fee of ten percent is applied. Ed Meyers, Western Reserve Land Conservancy, explains that donors are “very receptive” to the transfer fee option, and that the Conservancy itself realizes a more stable influx of funding dollars through the option than they do through upfront stewardship donations.

The transfer fee mechanism is also superior to an upfront stewardship fee for two other reasons: first, since the fee is based on the sales price of real estate, which has historically been an appreciating asset, the fee tends to keep up with inflation and, second, the transfer fee permits all land owners to contribute to the stewardship of their land rather than only the original easement grantor.

1.5 Alternative Funding Options: Multi-jurisdictional Approaches to Preserving Land and Water Quality - UPDATED

Contact: Tracey Hatmaker, Prairie Township; 614.878.3317; thatmaker@prairietownship.org ; Website: <http://www.franklincountyohio.gov/BigDarbyAccord/index.cfm>

Several alternative revenue sources for open space protection are being explored in the Darby Accord, but are not final as of the date of this report. The Darby Accord is a multi-jurisdictional agreement addressing how growth will occur in the Darby watershed, one of Ohio's unique water resources. One of the revenue sources explored within the Darby Accord is a New Community Authority (NCA) that would be active for 30 years, and would encompass both residential and commercial development. The NCA would have the power to purchase property, improve property, enter into contracts, and raise money through property taxes. The NCA would impose a ten mill charge on each new residential unit or structure – for the first 20 years five mills would go to local public infrastructure improvements, five mills to regional improvements, and for the last 10 years the full ten mills would be allocated to regional improvements. It is projected that the NCA charge would provide \$150.3 million in local funds and \$324.5 million in regional funds. These funds will be used to defray the cost of: construction and management of community facilities and land development services such as water sewer, road, curb, sidewalk, stormwater management installations; and for acquisition of rights in open space and farmland as part of the Big Darby Accord development program.

A second funding alternative explored through the Big Darby Accord is a one time Developer Fee on new development. A rooftop fee of \$2,500 would be applied to any new structure, and would be collected at the time that a new building permit is issued. Funds garnered through these fees would be used for land acquisition.

Finally, tax increment financing (TIF) is seen as a possible source of significant funding for

green space and other projects. However, the potential for TIF to be a major source of such revenue depends upon the ability of Franklin County and the participating townships to agree upon a formula for generating these funds.

1.6 Setting Aside Estate Taxes to Preserve Farmland: Miami Township Farmland Preservation Fund

Contact: Chris Mucher, Miami Township Clerk and Trustees Office; 937.767.2460; much@aol.com or trustees@miamitownship.net

In 1999, the Miami Township Trustees in Greene County became very concerned about farmland preservation when the township's largest farm went up for auction, divided into 32 parcels. Local governments and individuals scrambled to raise funds to assist any buyer or set of buyers who would be willing to preserve the entire 950 acre Whitehall Farm. Miami Township decided to devote \$10,000 of state level estate taxes that had recently come to them to the easement purchase fund. In all, \$1.2 million was raised, half from local governments and half from private individuals and groups, and the farm was saved.

The Miami Township Trustees decided to continue to accumulate their estate taxes in a Farmland Preservation Fund, anticipating a similar need in the future. In 2003, they decided to cap the fund at \$103,000, agreeing to replenish it to that level again each time funds were expended on a preservation project. With the help of Tecumseh Land Trust, the township has been able to match three federal Farm and Ranchland Protection Program projects with the fund in the last three years. The fund has been popular with farm owners and voters. In the Fall 2005 elections, all trustee candidates expressed their support for continuing the fund.

PART II. ADVANCEMENT THROUGH COOPERATION: PARTNERSHIPS AND ORGANI- ZATIONS

2.1 New Partnerships: Protecting Agriculture Through Joint Planning

*Contact: Jim McConnell, Pittsfield Township;
440.775.3352*

Jim McConnell and others in Pittsfield Township, Lorain County, have created a joint economic development agreement with the neighboring City of Oberlin. While cities and townships sometimes fight each other for development or over annexation, Oberlin and Pittsfield are supporting each other in a plan that designates 20% of Pittsfield Township—outside of Oberlin—as appropriate for development. The township has agreed not to oppose annexation in the “development zone” and will discourage development on farmland in exchange for a share of Oberlin’s tax receipts. The 50 year agreement will give the township an 18% share of withholding taxes from commercial payrolls and 2.35 mills of property tax in commercial and industrial areas.

This process also engaged the township in the development of a land use plan that will utilize smart growth principles. The aim is not to halt development, but to shape and direct growth.

2.2 Building a Strong Market: Farm Market Development in Cuyahoga County - NEW

*Contact: Donita Anderson, North Union Farmer’s Market; 216.751.7656; northunionfarmersmarket@yahoo.com
Website: www.northunionfarmersmarket.org*

Since 1995, the North Union Farmers Market (NUFM) has been working to link consumers in the greater Cleveland metro area to fresh, locally grown and produced foods, while also mentoring local farmers and producers in entrepreneurial food production skills. The nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization operates and promotes

seven markets, all of which sell only food and products grown and produced by local farmers and artisans. In 2006, these markets supported 136 farmers, 82 artisans, and 29 food purveyors from a nine county area.

Donita Anderson, NUFM director, says that drawing from such a wide range of counties is part of what makes their model successful for farmers and for consumers – variety. “Every soil composition is suited for different crops” says Anderson, “we tell farmers to ‘do what your soil can do the best’” because Ohio soils are a prime resource. Currently NUFM organizers are working to attract artesian dairy producers to their markets, as well as farmers raising heirloom vegetables, fruits, poultry and meats.

When NUFM was first developed, organizers spent a good deal of time traveling across the region, soliciting a diverse range of farmers and producers. Today, farmers and producers approach them about selling at market, perhaps because of the educational benefits that NUFM sellers enjoy. The group holds educational workshops throughout the year, bringing in experts from locations such as Illinois, California and Vermont to work with farmers on topics like soil analysis, business strategies, and the development of niche markets. These workshops are funded in part by NUFM’s annual benefit, “Let’s Get Fresh”.

2.3 Institutionalizing a Preservation Task Force: Placing a Task Force within the County’s Political Planning Structure - UPDATED

Contact: Brooks Davis, Fairfield County Regional Planning Commission; 740.687.7110; bdavis@co.fairfield.oh.us

In 2000, the Fairfield County Regional Planning Commission set up a Farmland Preservation Task Force to help guide the county’s process of creating a land use plan for Fairfield County. The Task Force was created in order to give citizens a chance to provide input on the formation of the plan, which entailed a strong agricultural component. One of the “action points” of the plan was to establish a Rural Advisory Com-

mittee under the auspices of the Fairfield County Regional Planning Commission. In 2003, the Rural Advisory Committee was appointed by the Regional Planning Commission as a sitting committee under the commission. Members of the Rural Advisory Committee volunteer their time and meet periodically to discuss agricultural issues. Members include local citizens and farmers, as well as members of the Regional Planning Commission.

A recent result of this collaboration can be seen in the newly formed Fairfield Land Preservation Association or FLPA. The FLPA was founded in 2006 by members of the Rural Advisory Committee, as well as other interested citizens, and is a land trust that promotes the preservation of family lands in Fairfield County.

2.4 Planning for the Future of Agriculture: Wayne County Agriculture Success Team - NEW

Contact: Brian Gwin, Wayne County Economic Development; 330.264.2411; bgwin@waynedevelopment.org or Katie Myers, Wayne County Planning Department; 330.287.5420; kmyers@wayneohio.org

In 2002, Wayne County formed a team of volunteers to help assess the future and current role of agriculture in the region. As one of the top beef and dairy producers in the state, agriculture has long played an important role in Wayne County's economic and cultural identity.

The team was developed out of the 1997 Farmland Preservation Task Force, which no longer exists. After a failed local PDR ballot, it was evident that the agricultural community was in need of more options and resources. The mission of the Wayne County Agriculture Success Team is to retain and expand agriculture, all areas of agriculture, not just farmland preservation. Members include the Board of Wayne County Commissioners, the Wayne Economic Development Council, the College of Wooster, OSU Extension, OARDC, local nonprofit organizations, farmers, producers and financial institutions. The Agriculture Success Team's first task was to create a comprehensive producer sur-

vey. The survey, which was published in 2004, had three primary objectives: (1) to establish the current status of farming practices in Wayne County; (2) to determine the farmer respondents' view of the agriculture infrastructure in supporting farming; and (3) to consider the respondents' view of the future of agri-business in Wayne County.

The Agriculture Success Team survey revealed that land tenure and the cost of land are two of the primary concerns of area farmers, and reinforced local interest in emerging technologies and niche products. The county has since revised its comprehensive plan to meet these concerns, and the Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center focuses on those topics of primary interest to producers. Since 2004, the Agriculture Success Team continues to undertake projects to address the needs and demands of the agricultural community. Meetings are held once every 4-6 weeks and subcommittees have been formed in order to focus on other issues. The survey and other work of the Agriculture Success Team have led to the creation of the Agricultural Economic Development Professional position – see section 2.5 to learn more.

2.5 Understanding the Economy of Agriculture: Creation of the Wayne County Agricultural Economic Development Professional - NEW

Contact: Brian Gwin, Wayne County Economic Development; 330.264.2411; briangwin@waynedevelopment.org

In 2004, the Wayne County Agriculture Success Team (see section 2.4) published the Wayne County Agriculture Success Team Producer Survey, whose results called for strategic changes at the county level to support the development of local agriculture. One of the results of the study was the creation of an Agricultural Economic Development Professional position within the Wayne Economic Development Council (WEDC). WEDC is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to promote and facilitate business retention and strategic business growth in Wayne County. The position is de-

signed to support agricultural production and agribusiness in a manner similar to industrial businesses, thus allowing agricultural enterprises to be equally vibrant and profitable.

Brian Gwin has held the position since January of 2005 and tailored his efforts to infill, not overlap, the successful work of other offices and organizations within the county. Project activities to date include attraction of a composting and potting soils company, coordination of incentives to rebuild a slaughter plant and facilitation of a Tax Incremental Financing (TIF) agreement which provided infrastructure necessary to move an expanding factory from a family farm thus allowing for the preservation of the farm. Gwin's efforts are currently focused on establishing agricultural security areas, building relationships with companies who provide anaerobic digesters for livestock and food processors and exploring the possibility of a community kitchen for value-added processing. Overall, WEDC is very active in promotion and development of the assets of the Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center including the formation of Innovation Village, a business incubator and BioHio Park, a contiguous location, for attraction of bioscience companies.

Wayne Economic Development Council has recently completed a funding campaign appropriately named "Growing a Quality Future" which secured funding for the organization and the Agricultural Economic Development Professional position until 2010.

2.6 Maximizing Efficiency of an Organization: Food and Farming Team of B-W Greenway - UPDATED

Contact: Bob Jurick, B-W Greenway Community Land Trust; 937.878.6060; bob-jurick@bwgreenway.org; Website: www.bwgreenway.org

B-W Greenway Community Land Trust has created distinct work groups, or teams, within the land trust framework to more completely address local issues. These teams include: Food and Farming; Habitat; Water; Connectivity; Pollution and Consumption; and Education. This

"division of labor" allows the land trust to focus simultaneously on several projects at once, while letting those members with similar interests work together closely and efficiently.

The Food and Farming Team focuses on issues related to local agriculture and food sustainability issues. Their goals include local education through an edible school yard project, the slow foods movement, biodiesel awareness, and workshops on canning and freezing produce. They are also involved in the creation of a database through an inventory on agricultural crops grown within the greenway. To achieve these goals they have worked to establish local connections with groups such as: the Chef's Association, Community Garden Association, Innovative Farmers of Ohio, Ohio Ecological Food and Farm Association, Vista Volunteers/Americorps, OSU Extension and several local churches. The team is also responsible for maintaining B-W's Local Food Directory, which includes information on local farmers' markets, farmers and market gardeners, and Christmas tree growers.

2.7 Land Trusts Across Ohio: A Focus on Agricultural Preservation

Contact: Center for Farmland Policy Innovation; 614.247.6479; cffpi@osu.edu; Website: http://cffpi.osu.edu

Since 1987, local land trusts have been forming across Ohio to preserve one of Ohio's premier resources – agriculture. Over the past few years, the pace of development of farmland protection-oriented land trusts has increased, which is illustrated in the graph on the next page: Growth of Ohio Land Trusts: 1987-2006. Below is the most complete list of farmland protection-oriented land trusts we could compile. This list, with a map is located on our web site (<http://cffpi.osu.edu>). Please contact the OSU Center for Farmland Policy Innovation if there is another land trust to add.

Appalachia Ohio Alliance
Black Swamp Conservancy
B-W Greenway Community Land Trust
Champaign Land Preservation

Clinton County Open Lands
 Fairfield Land Preservation Association
 Grand River Partners, Inc.
 Heartland Heritage Conservancy
 Jefferson Township Land Conservation Association
 Killbuck Watershed Land Trust
 Land Conservancy of Hamilton County
 Land Heritage Trust of Union County
 Licking Land Trust
 Logan County Land Trust
 Owl Creek Conservancy
 Philander Chase Corporation
 Rural Land Alliance
 Southern Ohio Farmland Preservation Association
 Tecumseh Land Trust
 Three Valley Conservation Trust
 West Central Ohio Land Conservancy
 Western Reserve Land Conservancy

2.8 A Unique Partnership for Agricultural Conservation: Nonprofits and Government Working Together at the County Level - UD-PATED

Contact: Peggy Kirk Hall, Land Heritage Trust of Union County; 614.247.7898; peggykirk-hall1@yahoo.com

The Union County Chapter of Pheasants Forever formed a new relationship with the Land Heritage Trust of Union County to assess options for preserving a local farm for its agricultural and wildlife habitat values. After working with Land Heritage Trust to identify options for protecting the land, Pheasants Forever decided to apply for Clean Ohio Green Space Conservation Fund money to purchase the farm and create a wildlife habitat. A team of representatives from Pheasants Forever, Land Heritage Trust and the Union Soil and Water Conservation District developed the project plan and were supported by county and township officials. This project received Clean Ohio Funding in 2007, and established a unique partnership of non-

GROWTH OF OHIO LAND TRUSTS: 1987-2006

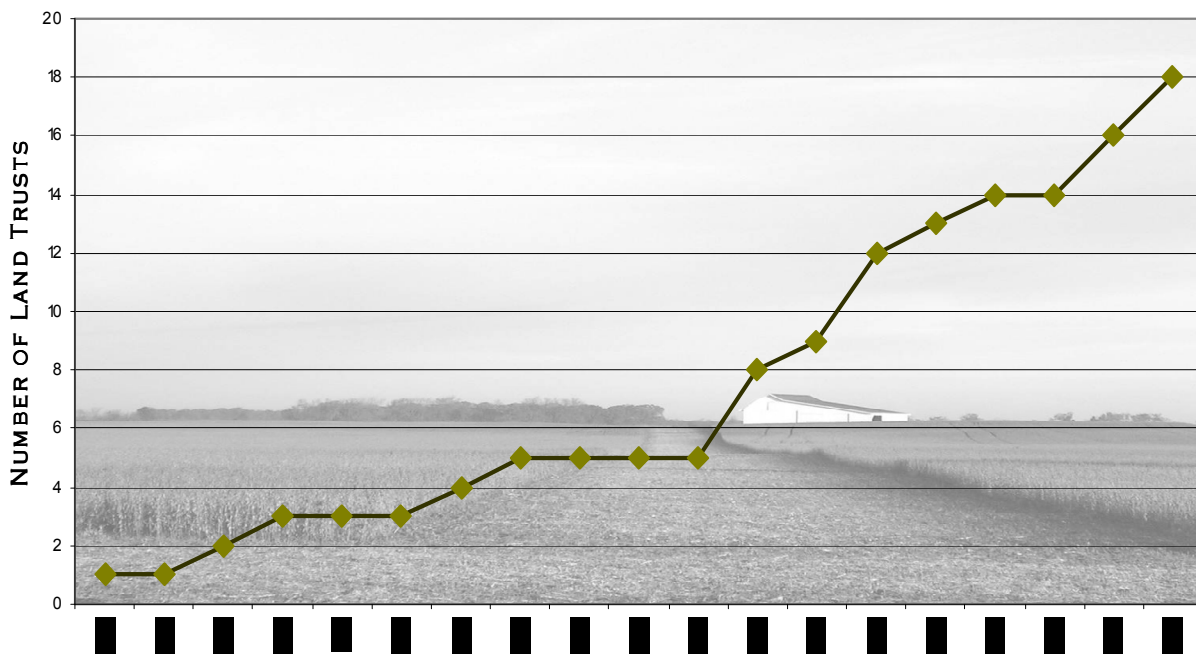


Photo courtesy of Terri Corry

Data Source: Coalition of Ohio Land Trusts

profit and governmental organizations that will

continue working together to advance land and resource protection in Union County.

2.9 Changing the Relationship Between Agriculture and Park Systems: Cuyahoga Valley National Park as Agricultural Provider - UPDATED

Contact: Darwin Kelsey; 330.657.2532; dkelsey@cvcountryside.org; Website: www.cvcountryside.org

The Countryside Initiative in Cuyahoga Valley National Park (CVNP) is an ambitious and innovative stewardship program, unique in America. The Countryside Conservancy was established in 1999 to help CVNP halt and reverse the rapid disappearance of farming in the Cuyahoga Valley, and the related deterioration of picturesque old farms now in the park's care (see section 4.7). Some 20 or so farms in the park will be physically rehabilitated, publicly offered for long-term leasing, and managed for modern sustainable farming. Nine farms will be operational by the end of 2007.



Cuyahoga Valley National Park
Source: CVCC

2.10 Land Trust Merger: Creating More Coverage for Farmland Protection - UPDATED

Contact: Julia Musson, Western Reserve Land Conservancy; 440.729.9621 ext. 102; jmusson@wrlc.cc; Website: www.wrlc.cc

Western Reserve Land Conservancy (WRLC) is a private, nonprofit conservation organization that works with landowners to preserve the natural resources and productive farmland of the 14-county Western Reserve region of northern Ohio. WRLC is the result of a January 1, 2006 merger among eight land trusts that operated in northeast Ohio: Bratenahl Land Conservancy, Chagrin River Land Conservancy, Firelands Land Conservancy, Headwaters Land-trust, Hudson Land Conservancy, Medina-Summit Land Conservancy, Tinkers Creek Land Conservancy, and Portage Land Association for Conservation and Education (PLACE). Most of the counties in the new WRLC service area still have very strong agricultural sectors, and in these areas, the primary focus will be farmland preservation. As of September 2007, WRLC has preserved 10,000 acres of farmland and natural areas. WRLC now has a central office located in Chester Township, Geauga County, and four field offices throughout the region.

2.11 A First! The First Land Trust Held Agricultural Easement in Clermont County - NEW

Contact: Patrick Hornschemeier; 937.378.4769; phlaw@verizon.net

Clermont County is faced by immense population pressure from Cincinnati, and farmland owners want options to continue operating farms. Unfortunately the county has not been successful in getting assistance through the Ohio Agricultural Easement Purchase Program, in part because of the relatively lower soils quality. This is where the Southern Ohio Farmland Preservation Association (SOFPA) steps in. Established in 1999, SOFPA works in Clermont, Adams, Brown, Fayette and Highland Counties. SOFPA played a critical role in establishing a small block of protected farmland, the first ever, in Clermont County this year. In early July, Frances Marion Wildey and her sister, Texie Kathryn Wildey, donated an agricultural easement to the land trust as did their other sister, Ethel Maw, and her husband, Wallace Maw. Another landowner donated an easement to Ohio Department of Agriculture. The successful

completion of these easements shows how valuable the networking of land trusts in Ohio is, since the attorney for the landowners initially contacted the Land Conservancy of Hamilton County and the Tecumseh Land Trust and both groups referred them to SOFPA.

2.12 Partners in Preservation: Three Valley Conservation Trust and Five Rivers Metro Parks - NEW

Contact: Larry Frimerman, Three Valley Conservation Trust; 513.524.2150; lfrimerman@3vct.org
Website: <http://www.3vct.org>

Contact: David Nolin, Five River Metro Parks; 937.277.4802, dnolin@metroparks.org
Website: http://www.metroparks.org/_conservation/NewProjects.aspx

As the presence of land trusts grows in Ohio, more and more land owners are becoming familiar with the options that can help them permanently preserve their farmland. In Montgomery County, two local entities have been working together since 2003 in an unlikely yet symbiotic relationship to preserve critical parcels of farmland. These two partners are Three Valley Conservation Trust, a successful land trust that has preserved nearly 8,000 acres of land, and Five Rivers Metro Parks, a Dayton area park system that manages over 8,500 acres of parkland. The director and deputy director of the two agencies first met in 2003, when they quickly realized that the two organizations shared many of the same goals in land preservation, and that a working partnership could be beneficial for both.

By 2003 Five Rivers Metro Parks had been working for years to acquire easements on working farms adjacent to existing park property. They had only managed to acquire an easement on a single 198 acre farm, but the partnership they developed with Three Valley Conservation Trust helped bring the number up to 1629 acres on eight farms by 2007. Three Valley was able to bring their regional experience and legal expertise to the partnership,

while Five Rivers was able to provide the local funding match needed to apply for the numerous federal, state, and local grants pursued by the two organizations. And because Three Valley had been working on obtaining easements in the area since 1994, they had the trust and confidence of local landowners – a trust that Five Rivers, as a governmental agency, had yet been unable to build.

Today, the two organizations have secured eight easements together, with some held by Three Valley, some by Five Rivers, and some by the two entities jointly. Three Valley Conservation Trust monitors all but one of the easements, and also negotiates the agreements with the land owners – a service for which Five Rivers reimburses in support their operations fund.

PART III. PLANNING FOR PRESERVATION:

LAND USE TOOLS

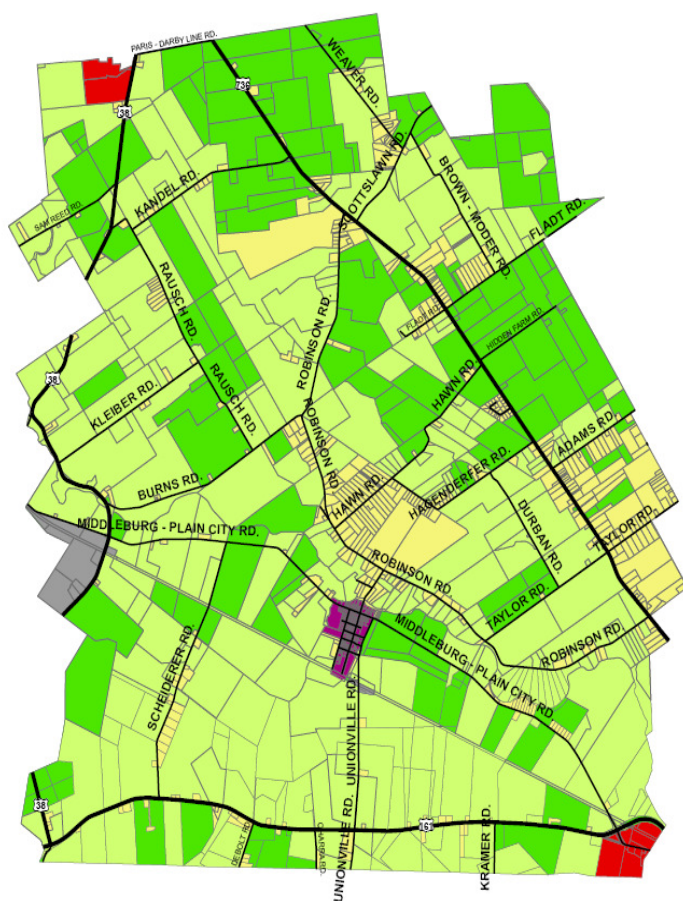
3.1 Creative Approaches to Agricultural Zoning: Introducing A-1 Zoning as a Voluntary Classification

Contact: Jenny Snapp, LUC Regional Planning Commission; 937.666.3431; jennysnapp@rroho.com

When Darby Township, Union County local officials presented the public with a draft proposal to introduce agricultural protection zoning in the township, voters turned down the zoning referendum at the polls. Even though Darby Township is a heavily rural township, many landowners disapproved of the zoning proposal because it would have prohibited them from selling parcels in an A-1 (Agricultural) district smaller than 20 acres and parcels in an FR (Farm Residential) district smaller than five acres. Rather than give up on this preservation tactic, planners tried a new approach and held a series of public meetings to understand the public's opinion about the rejected referendum. What was eventually enacted in July of 2006 was a zoning proposal which included both FR zoning and A-1 zoning, but A-1 zoning was offered as a vol-

untary option. Thus far over 7,400 acres have been voluntarily placed into A-1 zoning (see zoning map, right). Land owners felt “much more comfortable” with this option, declares LUC Planning Director Jenny Snapp.

The success of the voluntary zoning proposal is attributed to the high level of citizen participation and awareness as this second proposal was being developed. Nearby Goshen Township has also addressed issues of agricultural preservation by using citizen participation in the form of meetings and workshops to guide and strengthen the decision-making process.



Darby Township Zoning Map 11/07

A-1 Dark Green = Voluntary Agricultural Zoning District
 U-1 Light Green = Rural District
 R-1 Yellow = Low Density Residential District
 B-2 Red = Local Business
 LI Grey = Light Industrial

Source: LUC Regional Planning Commission

Farmland Preservation in an Urbanized County: Prince Georges County Maryland PDR Program

Contact: Robert Yates Clagett Jr., Prince Georges County Soil and Water; 301.574.5162 ext. 3; yates.clagett@nacdn.net.

While the Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation (MALPF) is considered by some to be one of the most successful state-level PDR (purchase of development rights) programs in the country, farms in highly urbanized Prince Georges County had historically been unqualified for funding through the program. Prince Georges County, with its urbanized northern and central region, has relatively little agricultural lands in comparison to other counties in Maryland, and also has relatively small farms and very low percentages of the Class I, II and III soils that are prioritized by the state program.

Two farms were preserved at the state level in 2004 and 2005, but local activists realized that a county-level PDR program may be the most effective way to preserve the remaining farmland in the county. “We are 20 years behind the rest of the state [in preservation activity]” declares Prince Georges County preservation leader Yates Clagett, “but we do have landscapes that need to be protected, and this program gives us a chance to do that.”

Prince Georges County was historically a tobacco farming county, but currently grains are the most prominent crop, and nursery crops are the fastest growing and most profitable market segment. Because of the proximity to Washington DC, there are great market opportunities for vegetable and fruit growers, as well as farmers utilizing organic growing practices. The Soil and Water Conservation district and the Southern Maryland Development Commission are actively helping farmers transition into profitable niche markets “because profitability,” insists Clagett, “is one the most efficient types of preservation tactics.” (continued next page)

Prince Georges County Maryland PDR Program, cont.

In November of 2006 the first round of applications were reviewed by the new PDR program. 34 applications were received for a total of 3,000 acres of farmland, and Clagett estimates that about three farms totaling 600 acres will be preserved this round. The program has five million dollars of funding for this first round of applications, with an additional seven million dollars preserved for the second round. Clagett anticipates that the program will receive even more applications in its second round.

3.2 Zoning for Urban Agriculture: Protecting Food Production in Greater Cleveland - NEW

Contact: Julia Barton; OSU Extension; 216.429.8234; jbarton@cfaes.osu.edu

In early 2007, the City of Cleveland became the first U.S. city to comprehensively protect small-scale urban agriculture through a zoning amendment that enables the creation of formal Urban Garden Districts. In highly urbanized areas such as metropolitan Cleveland, inner city residents with limited access to fresh produce sometimes rely on urban food production (often in the form of urban or community gardens) as a way to supplement their diets. Yet traditional zoning codes do not support the special needs of urban agriculture, and food production is commonly not thought of as the “highest and best use” for urban land. In 2006, a team of Cleveland urban agriculture advocates, including representatives of the Cleveland Botanical Garden, the Cuyahoga Community Land Trust, and Cuyahoga County OSU Extension, lobbied and received support from city planners and council members to amend the zoning code in order to protect established agricultural ventures in metropolitan Cleveland.

The Cleveland zoning code states that the Urban Garden Districts are designed to “ensure that urban garden areas are appropriately located and protected to meet needs for local food production, community health, community

education, garden-related job training, environmental enhancement, and community enjoyment.” The code protects select community gardens and market gardens, and allows for the construction of greenhouses, hoopouses, cold-frames, barns, tool sheds, seasonal farm stands, rain barrel systems, chick coops, beehives, and other agricultural infrastructure.

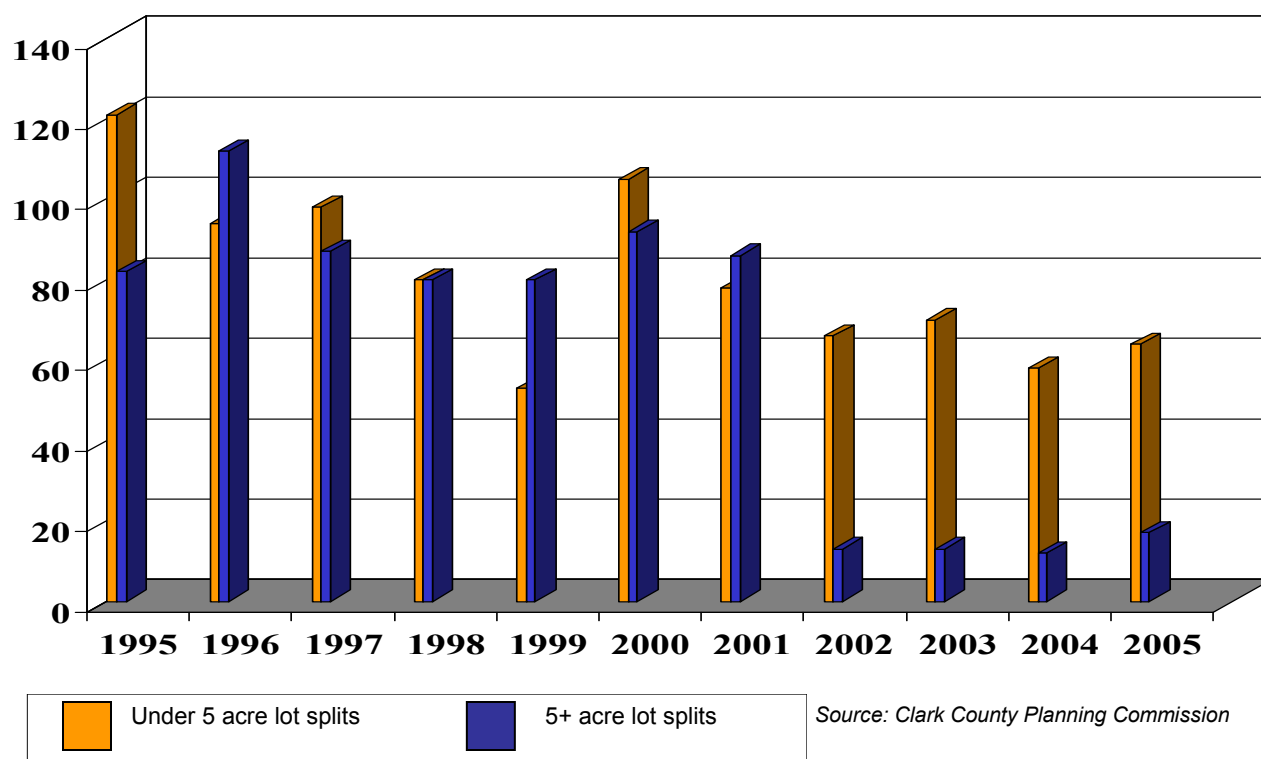
Since the adoption of the zoning code in February of 2007, four community and market gardens have applied for and received designation as Urban Garden Districts.

3.3 Adding Tools to the Zoning Toolbox: Helping Land Trusts Enforce Conservation Easements on AEPP Funded Areas

Contact: Bob Jurick, Clark County Farmland Preservation Work Group; 937.878.6060; bob-jurick@bwgreenway.org

The Clark County Farmland Preservation Work Group is working to alleviate some of the pressures of enforcement that are experienced by land trusts in the county. They are suggesting that stricter zoning classifications be applied to lands which have received AEPP funding. Current A-1 (Agricultural) zoning allows for 16 conditional uses to be developed on agricultural land besides farming. Most of these uses such as schools, gravel pits, airports, firehouse, etc. are in violation of the AEPP easement.

The work group, in cooperation with Clark County Planning staff, is considering new zoning categories that would eliminate those conditional uses. One approach would automatically rezone lands placed under AEPP easements into an Agriculture Conservation district that does not include the conditional uses that would violate the AEPP easements. A second approach would to remove the problem conditional uses from the current A-1 district and add a new A-2 district that would allow those uses. A third option would be to remove the problem conditional uses from the current A-1 district and develop new districts such as Community Service (for schools, churches, firehouses) and a Mineral Extraction district for gravel pits and quarries.



While the land trust would still be expected to maintain and supervise the easements on the properties in question, the stricter zoning classification would require a rezoning for any future uses that would be easement violations. The rezoning process requires legislative approval by county or township officials. Even if the rezoning were approved, it could be overturned by citizen referendum. This proposed change essentially provides two extra “locks on the gate” and should discourage future violation incidents.

3.4 Clark County Subdivision and Zoning Regulations: Helping to Reduce Sprawl and the Destruction of Farmlands

Contact: Shane Farnsworth, Clark County Planning Commission; 937.328.2498; sfarnsworth@clarkcountyohio.gov; Website: www.clarkcountyohio.gov

In 2001, Clark County enabled new subdivision and zoning regulations they hoped would impede the destruction of agricultural lands, which were being converted at an average of 785 acres a year. The regulations limited the subdivi-

vision of lots between five and 39.99 acres, and required a change in zoning classification on any proposed split between five and 39.99 acres in the A-1 (Agriculture) district. Raising this level from the standard five acre cut-off for subdivision review has significantly reduced the amount of lot splits over five acres over the last six years (see graph above). The reduction in over-five acre lot splits is significant, and has assisted in the preservation of land in prime agricultural areas while promoting more sustainable land division and the subsequent reduction of developmental sprawl. This policy initiative is developing more lots utilizing public water and sewer and fewer lots on individual well and septic systems. In concert with the County's Comprehensive Plan, new development is being directed to areas identified for growth while reducing the impact of residential development on areas identified as agriculture.

PART IV. CLOSING THE LOOP: CITIZEN AWARENESS, EDUCATION AND PARTICIPATION

4.1 **Local Foods Initiative: Supporting Local Producers through Innovative Marketing and Public Education - UPDATED**

Contact: Howard Sacks, Rural Life Center; 740.427.5850; sacksh@kenyon.edu; Website: <http://rurallife.kenyon.edu/FFT/index.html>

Food for Thought is a collaborative initiative to build a sustainable market for foods produced in and around Knox County. The project grew out of a growing concern over the rapid expansion of metropolitan Columbus and its impacts upon the county's rural character. This project seeks to direct ten percent of the \$127 million county residents spend annually on food to local sources, and began in 2000 with the publication of *Homegrown: A Guide to Local Food Products in Knox County, Ohio*. Food for Thought's current efforts include marketing to institutional buyers, research initiatives and public programs and exhibits designed to build consumer interest. Overall organization of the project is provided by the Rural Life Center at Kenyon College, which works closely with the Ohio State University Extension, local and state agricultural organizations, county commodity groups and local government offices and civic organizations. The Local Food Council, comprised of community members representing all aspects of the food system, serves as an advisory body to the project and assists in implementing project initiatives. Future plans include the conversion of a historic warehouse in downtown Mount



Source: Howard Sacks

Vernon into a year-round venue for the sale of local foods, a project driven by consumer demand. The facility will include a farmer's market with vendor spaces operated by a nonprofit managing entity, a for-profit store and café featuring local foods, and a community kitchen to enable the creation of value-added products.



The historic Buckeye Candy & Tobacco Company is being renovated to house a retail outlet for local foods

Source: Howard Sacks

4.2 **Building Support Networks: Regional Farm Tours as a Tool for Education and Network Building - UPDATED**

Contact: Steve Bartels, OSU Extension, Butler County; 513.785.6654; bartels.2@osu.edu; Website: <http://butler.osu.edu>

The Butler County Farm-City Tour is one of the most well established farm tours in the State of Ohio; it has been functioning since 1976. Since 1988, tours have been conducted every other year. The farm tour was introduced during the 1970's because retail beef prices were high and consumers were boycotting the products. Consumers were receiving an image of agriculture through the media and in the classroom that agriculture was about profit at any cost. The message was that all farms are factory farms and out to take advantage of the poor and the hungry. The farm tour was established to educate the public about commercial agriculture. The farm tour works to teach the consumer that local farms are family farms, environmentally friendly, concerned about animal welfare, safe

food and clean water. Visitors have the opportunity to better understand how commercial farming works. They learn of the high cost of production and the low profit margins. They view the equipment, ask about and processes farmers utilize in their work and have a family outing in the country. Each year the tour is well attended. It was estimated the tour attracted nearly 2,500 visitors who made over 12,000 farm visits to the six farms, open for two days in October of 2006. Tour organizers conduct surveys of visitors each year so they can continue to meet visitor needs and expectations.

Although the Butler County Farm-City Tour has never focused directly on the preservation of agricultural lands, visitors to farms are able to better understand the importance of agriculture to Ohio's environment and economy. Two of the farms on the tour in 2006 were being placed in easements under the protection of Three Valley Conservation Trust. Visitors were able to learn about easements and land trusts when they visited these properties. These properties include farms owned by the Tincher and Study families. Three Valley Conservation Trust has also begun to lead their own series of farm tours, to educate the public about easements and the work they are doing. For more information, please contact: Larry Frimerman, Three Valley Land Trust; 513.524.2150; lfrimerman@3vct.org.

4.3 Creating New Connections: FarmLink - UPDATED

Contact: Beth Knorr, the Countryside Conservancy's Farmland Center; 330.657.2538; beth@thefarmlandcenter.org; www.thefarmlandcenter.org

The Farmland Center has developed a program to link farmers and land. Certainly not a new concept nationally, but an underdeveloped idea in the state of Ohio, FarmLink provides a central point of information exchange between farmers who have land available for



sale or lease and new/expanding farmers looking for land.

Farm Forager as Small Farm Advocate: The City of Chicago

Contact: Sheri Doyel, Chicago Farm Forager; 312.213.6607; chicagofarmforager@yahoo.com

Website: www.chicagogreencitymarket.org

In the early 2000's, The City of Chicago and the nonprofit organization Green City Market decided to join forces to strengthen the presence of markets in Chicago. In doing so they hoped to help meet Chicagoans' growing demand for a sustainable and locally relevant food system. The Mayor's Office of Special Events, which manages over two dozen farmers markets, and the Green City Market, which manages a popular bi-weekly market, created the position of "Farm Forager" to attract and retain small-scale farmers to Chicago's market system. The Farm Forager position was officially created in 2005, jointly funded by Green City Market and the City of Chicago.

The Chicago Farm Forager position is a complex position within the local food system and one that is currently still being defined, according to current Farm Forager Sheri Doyel. The Farm Forager spends about 20 percent of her work time on the road, traveling to farms in the Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana and Michigan region. She not only seeks out new farmers to sell at the dozens of city markets, but also checks in with current farmers, completing a "soft-handed inspection" that assures that farmers are meeting the standards of the market system, such as minimizing product outsourcing. She also spends a good deal of time networking – with chefs, farmers, producers, and food policy advocates – to maximize the opportunities available to local farmers and consumers. Sheri has also worked with Green City Market to create the annual "Farmer Forum", which is a capacity-building educational and networking event for regional farmers.

For beginning farmers, FarmLink can provide information on:

- Financing options
- Business planning
- Training workshops (exploring the small farm dream)
- Intern and apprenticeships
- Market opportunities

For exiting farmers, FarmLink can provide information regarding:

- Conservation options
- Innovative models for transferring farmland or a farm business
- Succession planning resources

4.4 Working to Preserve Cultural Resources: The Revival of Springfield Farmers' Market - UPDATED

Contact: Sherry Chen; 937.408.7171; sac1999@earthlink.net

After 174 years of nearly continuous operation, there was no downtown farmers' market in Springfield, Ohio in 2005. A series of management missteps led to a major loss of producer participation and the market shut down. Tecumseh Land Trust's Education Committee, Clark County Farm Bureau, OSU Extension, Clark County Soil and Water Conservation District and numerous citizens were alarmed. A group of 14 businesses and organizations began to meet to explore reviving the market in 2006. The group, called "Friends of Springfield Farmers' Market," surveyed producers and consumers at the 2005 Clark County Fair to ascertain interest in reviving the market. The interest was there and the majority of respondents also said the market should be reinstated at its traditional location, the Richardson Romanesque "City Market" building surrounded by cobblestone pavement in the heart of the city.

The reopening of the market on June 3, 2006, was a resounding success. With 22 vendors the very first week, musical entertainment throughout the season, and excellent publicity through the Springfield Sun and local radio, the market attracted both old and new customers.

The 2007 season of the Springfield Farmers' Market has 44 vendors signed up to participate, with an average of 23 vendors per week (of which 12-15 are farmers). The customer base has increased from last year, and organizers say that "people are excited about buying healthy, local fresh food from farmers they know and trust". Sales for Saturday mornings have doubled from 2006, and the market features live music each Saturday morning. Also in 2007, Gene Barnett was named as Co-Market Manager. Barnett is a board member of the Tecumseh Land Trust and Co-chair of the TLT Education Committee.

4.5 Educational Programming: Educating Land Owners and Local Officials through a Targeted Workshop Series - UPDATED

Contact: Peggy Kirk Hall, Land Heritage Trust of Union County; 614.247.7898; peggykirk-hall1@yahoo.com

In 2006, the Land Heritage Trust of Union County developed an educational campaign titled "Our Land, Our Heritage." The series of workshops was aimed at educating local officials and residents on land use topics which included: "Taxes and Easements," "Conserving Your Land with Government Programs," "Options for Farm-Friendly Zoning and Development," and "Conservation-Minded Options for Developing Land." The well-attended meetings consisted of presentations and discussions by attorneys, planners, government officials, landowners, and staff from SWCD, FSA and OSU. Joining the Land Heritage Trust in sponsorship of the meetings were the Union County Farm Bureau, Union County Pheasants Forever, Union Soil and Water Conservation District, Union County Chamber of Commerce and Logan Union Champaign Regional Planning.

The success of the 2006 educational campaign prompted organizers to propose a second round of workshops. They applied and received a \$1,000 grant from the Union County Foundation to fund a second series, and 2007 topics include: "Opportunities for Agricultural Economic Development in Union County," "Preserving Family Lands," "Zoning to Support Agriculture:

What Works,” and “Taking Stock in Our Rural Heritage.”

4.6 Redefining Local Food Systems: Countryside Conservancy - UPDATED

Contact: Beth Knorr; 330.657.2538;

beth@thefarmlandcenter.org

Website: www.cvcountryside.org

The Countryside Conservancy is a private, non-profit corporation headquartered in the Cuyahoga Valley between Cleveland and Akron. The Countryside Conservancy is a small think-and-do tank working to envision and establish common sense, entrepreneurial, civic approaches to land-use, farming, and local food systems throughout Northeast Ohio. The Conservancy has developed a variety of resources to identify and promote local farm products throughout the Northeast Ohio region. In cooperation with the Ohio Farmers Union Cooperative Development Center, the Conservancy published the following guides for local food system development and promotion in 2006. The guides will be updated annually:

- Harvest Guide: Local Food and Seasonal Eating in Northeast Ohio
- Northeast Ohio Farms and Farm Products Directory (Ashland, Ashtabula, Carroll, Clark, Cuyahoga, Geauga, Knox, Lake, Lorain, Mahoning, Medina, Portage, Summit, Wayne counties).
- Directory of more than 35 Northeast Ohio Farmers Markets
- Listing of Community Supported Agriculture Farms
- Listing of Restaurants, Cafes and Caterers that use local farm products
- Directory of Grocers and Retailers selling local farm products

PART V. CENTER FOR FARMLAND POLICY INNOVATION: PARTNERS IN PRESERVATION

5.1 Funding Innovative Farmland Projects in Ohio: Clark, Hiram, and Wayne Counties - NEW

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Website: <http://cffpi.osu.edu>

In 2006 during the 7th Annual Ohio Farmland Preservation Summit, Jill Clark, the Director of the Center for Farmland Policy Innovation (CFFPI), announced the recipients of CFFPI's Farmland Protection Partnership Program grants. Three grants were awarded on a competitive basis, and recipients entered into contracts with CFFPI. These projects were chosen based on a series of criteria, including the requirement that the project outcome be local farmland preservation, and that the project be replicable for other Ohio communities. Project managers have worked in close collaboration with CFFPI over the last year, and have made significant progress toward their goals.

Clark County Agriculture in the Economy

Contact: Shane Farnsworth, Clark County Planning Commission; 937.328.2498; sfarnsworth@clarkcountyohio.gov; Website: <http://cffpi.osu.edu/clark.htm>

In this project, project leader Shane Farnsworth, director of the Clark County Planning Commission, will be working closely with Tecumseh Land Trust to expand farmland preservation efforts in Clark County. The project has two primary components: to add value to local farm production with new product development and marketing, and to continue the pace of farmland preservation with the goal of preserving an additional 10,000 acres of farmland in the county by the end of 2009. Tecumseh Land Trust is the leading land trust in the county, and currently holds easements to over 10,000 acres of land.

In April of 2007, project leaders created a work-group to act as a clearinghouse on new opportunities for funding and partnerships; the work-group includes representatives from the Chamber of Commerce, the Community Involvement Corporation, the Transportation Coordinating Committee, Southwest Landmark, the Port Authority, and other economic development leaders. Early in 2007, the project team also sent out a survey to 800 Clark County voters to gauge the public perception of the importance of agriculture and farmland preservation in the county, as well as the public's willingness to protect farmland in future voting measures.

Hiram County
Partnering to Preserve Farmland in Hiram Township with TDR

Contact: Lynne Erickson, Portage County Regional Planning Commission; 330.297.3613; lerickson@pcrpc.org; Website: <http://cffpi.osu.edu/Hiram.htm>

This project is a partnership between the village of Hiram, Hiram Township and Hiram College in Portage County, and is designed to determine whether Transfers of Development Rights (TDRs) are a viable tool to protect farmland in the township while stimulating growth in the village. TDR is a land preservation tool which focuses development in areas that have the services to handle growth and protects land in areas that do not. TDRs are often considered to act as an economic stimulus, because farmers are compensated for protected land and developers are provided bonuses in areas that are considered to be able to handle growth. TDRs have been used in other states to protect farmland, but to date have never been used in Ohio. A TDR program is outlined in the Hiram 2020 Comprehensive Plan, and sending and receiving areas have been identified in the plan. Primary goals of the plan include the protection of the large agricultural base of the township and the sustainable economic growth of the village.

This project has been organized into five primary phases, including: the formation of a Citizen's Advisory Committee to guide the organizational process, provide critical advice, and

educate the public throughout the project; the definition of areas that may be impacted by a TDR program; a study of the economic feasibility of implementing a TDR program; the development of the political framework needed for a sustainable TDR program; and, the dissemination of project materials and experiences to other Ohio communities which are interested in implementing TDR.

Early in 2007, the TDR Steering Committee was formed, as was a Citizens Advisory Committee, which is composed of economic development officials, realtors, farmers, and developers. The Citizen's Advisory Committee conducts monthly meetings to discuss issues related to TDRs and to track the process of the study. In June of 2007, the Advisory Committee organized a very well attended public forum to educate community member on how TDRs function and how they might impact the region.

Wayne County
Local Policy Decisions: Help or Hindrance to Agriculture's Future?

Contact: Katie Myers, Wayne County Planning Department, 330.287.5420; kmyers@wayneohio.org; Website: <http://cffpi.osu.edu/wayne.htm>

Wayne County, along with collaborators in Holmes and Ashland Counties, earned a CFFPI grant for their proposal to conduct a comprehensive review of all the county's policies to determine their effects on agriculture and land use. Based on their findings, the team proposes to suggest a series of policy and planning revisions to present to the county commissioners. The analysis will begin in Wayne County and then be replicated in the other two counties. The group will be looking at all county policies that might have an effect on land use, including subdivision regulations, water use policies, health department regulations and engineering codes.

This project has several components, including: creation of a Policy Audit Advisory Board to guide the audit process; development of a policy audit model in Wayne County with the help of a professional consultant; implementation of

the policy audit model in Ashland and Holmes County; and, the development of policy change recommendations for county commissioners of each partner county.

In April of 2007, Wayne County project leaders entered into contract with a nationally recognized policy audit consultant, Jerry Weitz. Weitz assisted in the development of a policy survey designed to gauge the impact of county policies on agriculture and land use; the survey was sent to county agencies and boards in July of 2007.

5.2 Land Trust Development: Helping New Agricultural Land Trusts Achieve Organizational Sustainability and Build Public/Private Partnerships - NEW

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Some of the greatest successes in local Ohio farmland protection have occurred as a result of public/private partnerships. The relationships between local land trusts and local government are often a key to success, leverage the strengths of each party. Because many agricultural land trusts in Ohio operate at the county level, these partnerships with local government are critical. CFFPI want to help build these relationships.

Within the last few years, three land trusts have formed that focus all or in part on agricultural lands—Land Heritage Trust of Union County, Fairfield Land Preservation Association, and Logan County Land Trust. CFFPI is interested in developing better working relationships between these land trusts that have these commonalities and developing a cohort that is comfortable learning from one another. A program has been designed by CFFPI through analysis of needs assessments filled out by participating land trusts. The needs assessment identified some common needs between the invited land trusts for group learning and some opportunities for one-on-one consulting. The common needs are addressed through workshops with all the land trusts participating and through individual

technical assistance. Summer 2007 was the kick-off of this year-long training program. The first workshop focused on land trust board development. Subsequent workshops will cover strategic planning, fund raising and building relationships with local governments (counties and townships). Individualized assistance is provided through one-on-one consulting with OSU and other experts.

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