

Protecting Farmland, Protecting Water Quality

Tuesday, March 18, 2008

9:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Mrs. Rowe's Family Restaurant
6178 South Valley Pike, Mt. Crawford

Lunch is free, but space is limited. Registration is required by March 10

Are you worried about the future of farming in the Valley?

Come learn about farm protection programs, why Lancaster County (PA) has the best farmland protection in the nation, and how farmers, water quality, and farmland protection can work together.

Outline of Program:

Water Quality and Conservation Practices: Progress and Updates on Goals

- ❑ Data on local streams and watersheds
- ❑ What's being done and what are effective practices?
- ❑ Outline of a pilot alternative fencing project and water quality monitoring effort

Lancaster County (PA) Farmland Preservation Program

Lancaster County has protected nearly 1,000 farms (75,000 acres) and attracts strong reinvestment in the farm economy. Lifelong farmers, Gene Garber and Luke Brubaker, explain how the program developed and share their experience with the local purchase of development rights (PDRs) programs. Both were raised on farms, have protected their farms through conservation easements, and now farm in partnership with the next generation.

Gene Garber farms 400 acres and raises laying hens. He's been a professional baseball pitcher, served on the board of supervisors, and currently chairs the local PDR board. Luke Brubaker manages a 700-cow dairy operation and is a Milk Marketing Commissioner for Pennsylvania. He is past chairman of the township board of supervisors and is active on community boards and in his Mennonite Church.

Local Farmland Protection Efforts

- ❑ Find out the status of regional and local efforts.
- ❑ Learn the mechanics of conservation easements for farmers.
- ❑ Hear the perspective of Ray J. Showalter, a local farmer and conservation easement donor.

Registration Deadline: Monday, March 10. To register, call the Shenandoah Valley Soil & Water Conservation District (SVSWCD) at (540) 433-2853, ext. 120 or email Megan O'Gorek at megan.ogorek@va.nacdnet.net. For information, call Mike Phillips (SVSWCD, 433-2853 ext. 115), Eric Bendfeldt (Virginia Cooperative Extension 432-6029), or Sara Hollberg (Valley Conservation Council 886-3541). If you are a person with disabilities and need assistive services, please contact us at least five days prior to event.

Program sponsored by:



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