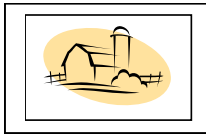


LCFCT to hold CAUV and AG District Discussion at August Meeting

In an effort to increase understanding of CAUV and AG District programs, LCFCT is hosting an informal panel discussion at their August meeting. The next LCFCT meeting will be held on Wednesday August 4th at 7:00 PM. The meeting will be held at the Lake County Soil & Water Conservation District's meeting

room located at 125 E Erie St in Painesville. For directions or more information please call the LCFCT at (440) 350-5863 or reach us by e-mail us at lcfcct@lakecountyohio.org.



Why Small Farms Matter Cornell Small Farms Program

Recently the Cornell University has taken a close look at how small farms contribute to agriculture in the state of New York. After defining small farms as up to \$250,000 sales, Cornell found that in New York 90 percent of the state's 32,000 farms fall into the small category. Small farms contribute more than 40 percent

of NY's total agriculture production and they own or manage 50 percent of the state's farmland resources.

In addition to the economic contribution, Cornell found that rural residents cite the small farm sector as a core component of the state's social fabric, adding to the

aesthetics of the state's rural and working landscapes. The study also found that small farms add to the quality of life in their community, make purchases at local businesses, and increase the availability of fresh locally grown produce.

Census continued from page 1

Other interesting facts found by the 2002 Census include information about who operates Ohio's farms. In 2002 the principle operator of farms in Ohio was 53.8 years old and had operated the present farm for over 21 years. Approximately twenty five percent of all farm operators in Ohio in 2002 were women. Individuals and family groups operated 91 percent of Ohio's farms according to the 2002 Census.

In addition to the information provided above, the 2002 Census of Agriculture provides consistent and detailed production, economic, demographic and en-

vironmental data on a variety of subjects. Census publication information is available for sale through the National Technical Information Service at 1-800-999-6779.

P A Y D I R T ©

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Rural Areas Surrounding Cleveland Continue to Experience Fastest Growth



A recent Plain Dealer article by Dave Davis discussed how the fastest growing places in northeast Ohio were the most rural. Recent census figures continue to show that thousands of people are leaving our cities and suburbs and choosing to live in more rural areas. Leading the list of fastest growing communities were rural townships in Medina, Lorain, Portage and Geauga counties.

In the year ending July 1, 2003 Cuyahoga County recorded a net loss of more than 10,000 residents. "A third of everyone who sells a home in Cleveland moves out," said Tom Bier, director of Cleveland State University's Housing Policy Research Program. Bier also said that the current trend has caused the region to become imbalanced as more homes are built in the suburbs and the suburbs keep moving out.

While Cuyahoga is hurt by the loss of personal income leaving its cities, rural townships are faced with growth that brings subdivisions, retail stores, gas stations and the demand for more community services.

Farmers Want Kids to Pursue Different Careers



Life as a farmer is proving to be a tough sell these days, as many farmers want their children to pursue non-farming careers. A survey of the Nation Youth Group found that just 4 percent of its members plan on a future career in the farming industry. The survey shows that this low number is due in part

to farmers pushing their children into other job fields.

Many children of farmers have non-farming jobs during high school and college because their parents believe that their talents will take them farther in other businesses. High schools that still offer agriculture classes still have plenty of students but "out of 120, less than 10 will end up actually

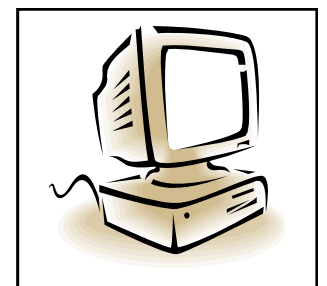
farming on their own farm" said Jim Lundberg, a high school agriculture teacher. It is a growing trend in America as farmers take whatever steps necessary to make sure their children do not follow in their footsteps, and it seems to be working.

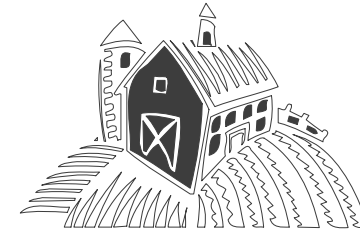
Lake County Farmland Conservation Taskforce Unveils New Website

The Lake County Farmland Conservation Taskforce has a new website located on the Lake County Government homepage. To visit the new Taskforce website go to www2.lakecountyohio.org/fct. The new website has a variety of online resources available including Lake County land use maps, taskforce

newsletters, a large collection of land preservation links and a variety of useful information about farmland preservation in Lake County.

Remember to add our new website to your favorite links list so you can check back frequently as we continue to add new information and resources.





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The Newsletter of the Lake County
Farmland Conservation Taskforce

LCFCT TENTATIVE MONTHLY MEETING CALENDAR FOR 2004

Due to weather and farm-related activities, some meetings may be cancelled
PLEASE! CALL to confirm! 350-5863

August 4 2004	Wednesday	7:00 PM
September 1 2004	Wednesday	7:00 PM
November 3 2004	Wednesday	7:00 PM

LCFCT Meetings are held in the Soil & Water District's conference room at 125 E. Erie Street in Painesville. There's ample parking behind the building off Jackson Street. Lake County Planning Commission meetings are held in the same building, downstairs.

FOR ALL GOVERNMENT MEETINGS: *Check your local newspaper or call for agenda.*

Selected Government Meetings		
Lake County Planning Commission (350-2739)	Last Tues.	7:00 p.m.
Madison Township Trustees (428-5128)	2 nd & 4 th Tues.	7:30 p.m.
Madison Village Council (428-7526)	1 st & 3 rd Mon.	7:00 p.m.
N. Perry Village Council (259-4994)	1 st Thurs.	7:00 p.m.
Perry Village Council (259-2671)	2 nd & 4 th Thurs.	7:00 p.m.
Perry Township Trustees (259-5140)	1 st & 3 rd Tues.	7:00 p.m.



LAKE COUNTY FARMLAND CONSERVATION TASKFORCE
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Farmland Conservation
Taskforce on the Internet via
our new website located at
www2.lakecountyohio.org/ct

Summer 2004

2002 Census of Agriculture Data Released in June

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) announced in June that the 2002 Census of Agriculture data was available for Ohio. The Census is the nation's largest agricultural information gathering project. Since the last full census report in 1997, the number of farms in Ohio has decreased by 940 from 78,737 to 77,797. According to the Census of Agriculture a farm is any place from which \$1,000 or more of agricultural products were produced and sold during a Census year. Once broken down the Census shows that farms containing between 50 and 999 acres decreased by 4,987 while farms

with less than 50 acres and over 1,000 acres both saw increases, 3,640 and 407 respectively.

In 2002 farms accounted for 56% of the Ohio's land area or about 14.6 million acres. This is a decrease of about 155,000 acres of farmland between 1997 and 2002. According to the 2002 Census the average farm in Ohio included 187 acres, had \$57,341 in sales and a net cash farm income of 8,929. Between 1997 and 2002 the average farm sales decreased by \$5,400.

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2004 AEPP Selections Announced

Two Geauga County farms were selected in this year's program

The 2004 selections have been announced for the State's Agricultural Easement Purchase Program. Out of the 277 applications received this year, only 14 received funding offers from the AEPP program. Only two farms located in Northeast Ohio were selected to receive funding to purchase their develop-

ment rights. Both farms were located in southern Geauga County.

Other counties to receive funding included Clark, Preble, Fulton, Marion and Miami. This year's AEPP program will use its \$3.1 million from the Clean Ohio fund and some Federal Farm and Ranch Lands Protec-

tion funds to preserve 2,490 acres of prime Ohio farmland. For information about the AEPP or if you are interested in applying next year, please contact the Lake County Farmland Conservation Taskforce at (440) 350-5863 or by e-mail at lcfcct@lakecountyohio.org