

Trocchio, Ginny

From: Local Purchase of Development Rights Grantee List
[LOCAL_PDR@LISTSERV.MICHIGAN.GOV] on behalf of Elizabeth Juras
[jurase@MICHIGAN.GOV]
Sent: Thursday, September 29, 2011 1:48 PM
To: LOCAL_PDR@LISTSERV.MICHIGAN.GOV
Subject: Reminder : FRPP Outreach
Attachments: FRPP Outreach ltr.doc; Burnette Foods ltr.pdf; Shoreline Fruit Letter.pdf

Reminder: FRPP Outreach

Please submit your stories to Brian Bourdages by Friday, October 28th.

Dear farmland preservation practitioners,

As we move into the drafting of a new federal Farm Bill, it's important to be able to tell our success stories to policy makers and others that support our work. The discussions about the future of the Farm Bill's various programs are already happening as Congress faces the pressures of finding ways to relieve the national debt. For those of us in the farmland preservation community, that means sharing our stories about how the Farm and Ranchland Protection Program is helping us with our work.

Brian Bourdages, Farmland Protection Specialist at the Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy, is serving as the point person to collect these success stories. Together with Heart of the Lakes Center for Land Conservancy Policy, American Farmland Trust, Land Trust Alliance and our other friends, Brian will make sure they are shared in manner that might best help us to continue to garner FRPP funding for our projects throughout Michigan.

Brian has been told by congressional staffers working on the Farm Bill and others working in this regard that the following three types of anecdotes or letters of support are most important:

- 1) Projects involving FRPP where a farm family or business was able to use the proceeds to expand their operation or create new agri-business activity that contributed to job creation.
- 2) Projects involving FRPP that clearly facilitated the transfer of the farm, or portions of the farm to the next generation of growers or to beginning farmers.
- 3) Letters that demonstrate how farmland preservation is bolstering the environment for agri-business and/or infusing confidence in the agricultural community by instilling confidence that sufficient land will remain available for production over the long run.

One way to garner this type of support is by soliciting letters from community members or families that you have worked with that speak to the issues outlined above. I'm attaching two letters that were received recently by the Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy as examples.

Please direct any materials that you have or might generate to Brian Bourdages. His email is: brian@gtrlc.org and he can be reached at 231-922- 1261.

Thanks for your efforts to tell share our successes during this crucial time.

Kind regards,
Elizabeth Juras
Farmland and Open Space Preservation

Michigan Department of Agriculture
and Rural Development
517-241-1457