

*In Loving Memory  
of Darwin Kelsey*

**Connecting People, Food and Land Since 1999**



Photo by Sara Graca

# An All-Too-Common History





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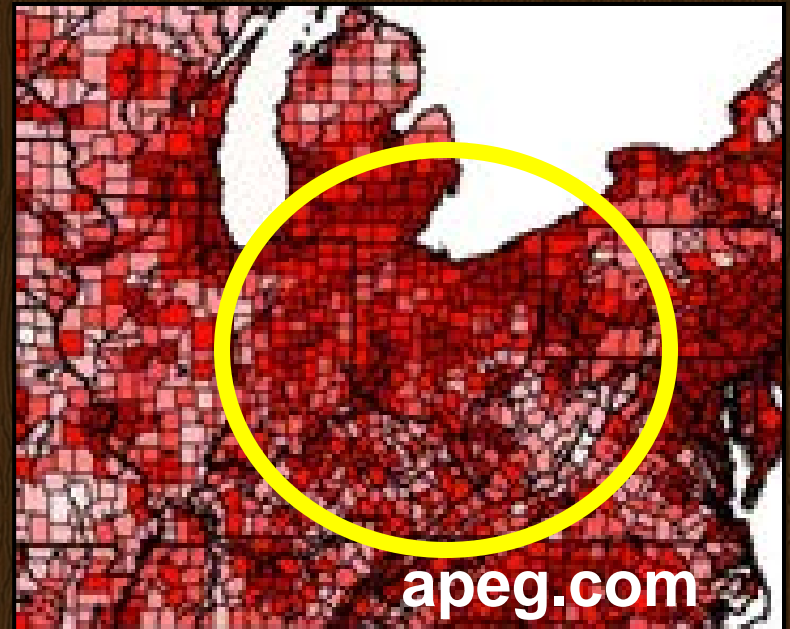






# Cuyahoga Valley National Park

in Partnership with



*Innovating farmland preservation by revitalizing farming in Cuyahoga Valley National Park, and by connecting people, food and land across Ohio.*



# 1. The Countryside Initiative

- *Cultural Resource Management Tool*
- *11 Active Farm Operations leasing federal land*
- *14 restored farmsteads*
- *Engaging over 100,000 park visitors each year*





## 2. Countryside Farmers' Markets



*Providing market access for farmers and consumers to encourage and support farm and food entrepreneurship and our local food system*



### 3. Countryside U

*Farm and Food Education for Farmers, Consumers and Children*

- Supporting entrepreneurial growth for farmers and market vendors
- Connecting consumers and young people to food and farm learning opportunities





## 4. Regional Leadership and Technical Assistance

- Private and public land use consulting
- National, State and Local Board and Advisory participation
- Connecting and sharing farmland opportunities in northeast Ohio
- Connecting communities to local food and nutrition incentive programs





# Partners in Sustainability, Resource Preservation and Education







# Farm Program Process

Determine the Why



Physical Inventory



Lease and RFP Structure



Recruit Farmers



Make Selection



# Live Happily Ever After?







# Live Happily Ever After?

- Policy Challenges and Opportunities
  - National State and Local Farmland protection policies that encourage public land use for agriculture
  - A national working group to focus on arable public land programs
  - Farmland Incentives that match real-world business culture for seekers and sellers
  - Industry Education for the Consumer to reduce public misconceptions/manage public pressure
  - Build public awareness on true cost of production and adjust government food programs to real cost of food
  - Farm Labor hiring Incentives for apprentice farmers





# Countryside Conservancy

*Connecting people, food and land*



*In Partnership with*



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