



P R E F A C E



Our first report marks a significant change in farmland protection throughout Jefferson County, West Virginia. This and subsequent Annual Reports will address important topics such as the conservation, preservation and status of farms in our county.

The information contained in this report is crucial to our efforts, and those of researchers in other counties and states across our nation. Reviewing different ways of approaching farmland challenges that will enable us to adapt our programs to the evolving needs of individuals, farms, and families. These efforts are imperative as each farm faces major demographic changes, particularly the increasing number of commercial and/or residential developers purchasing our farmlands.

At the forefront of local and state legislation was West Virginia Senator John Unger, D-Berkeley, 16th District. Senator Unger was instrumental in obtaining and developing legislation for farmland protection with diligence and compassion toward our lands, our farmers and preserving the historical genealogy of West Virginia.

The Voluntary Farmland Protection Program of Jefferson County is the product of cooperative efforts between the local, state and federal levels. Founded in 2000, the Farmland Protection Program is a non-profit organization bringing together institutions and administrative bodies from counties throughout West Virginia. The Farmland Protection Board (FPB) deals with all forms of voluntary farmland programs through legislation or national practices that are an integral part of the Jefferson County farmland protection.

For the first time, research and writing have been developed by a dedicated group of farmers and non-farmers, all county residents, with members of related organizations in support of farmland protection in Jefferson County. The FPB has conducted their research largely through a three county-based membership; Jefferson-Berkley-Morgan, as well as its affiliation with numerous farmland protection boards across the country.

Questions about this first annual report should be directed to the Farmland Protection Board at:

< jefferson@wvfarmalandprotection.org >



Additional photographs, updated information, with copies of relevant documentation and legislation are welcome and may be sent to:

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Telephone: 304-724-1414

This report is available at < www.wvfarmlandprotection.org >

The supporting members of farmland protection were responsible for technical and editorial assistance and production. Roger Dailey, Jane Tabb and others served as technical consultants and provided overall project management.

Nance L. Briscoe developed the design & layout, including photographs of Jefferson County farms uniquely integrated throughout this report, prepared the Web presentation of this publication and with the assistance of Emil L. Loomis, produced the report for circulation. ♦

Farmland Protection Board
Jefferson County, West Virginia

July 12, 2004

All images are uniquely identified in the index of illustrations of this issue.