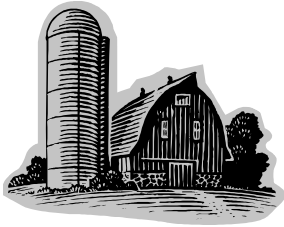


Protecting Farmland in Northeastern Illinois 2008 Conference

Sponsored by Openlands, a regional conservation organization,
and funded by a grant from the Gaylord and Dorothy Donnelley Foundation

*Friday, February 1, 2008 8 am to 4 pm and
Saturday, February 2, 2008 8:30 am to 1 pm*

Elgin Community College
Fox Valley University & Business Center
SIEGLE AUDITORIUM
1700 Spartan Drive
Elgin, IL 60123
(847) 931-3925



What its about:

Farmland in Northeastern Illinois is quickly disappearing. Without intervention this land will be lost. This conference will explore a variety of strategies to protect farmland by making it a viable part of the community in which we live. Action steps to implement these strategies at many levels will be defined. The roles of the market, state and local governments, non-profit conservation organizations and private individuals will be discussed. Speakers will present specific tools such as innovative incentives to integrate farming into the current economic structure of the region, tools for local governments and land trusts, statewide initiatives and real actions of private citizens and farmers.

Who should attend:

County and municipal elected and appointed officials,
farmland commission members, plan commissions,
staff planners, farmers, agricultural professionals,
land trusts, conservation organizations, consultants,
interested citizens.



Agenda Highlights

Friday, February 1, 2008

Keeping Farmland Viable in Northeastern Illinois: Exploring Alternative Strategies

- Farming with Nature: Terra Brockman and Megan Lewis, The Land Connection
- Ethanol and Corn: Steve Ruh, Past President, Illinois Corn Growers Association
- Merits and Drawbacks of Perennial Energy Grasses: Steve John, Agricultural Watershed Institute
- Soil Carbon Offsets: Bill Schleizer, Delta Institute and Nathan Clark, Chicago Climate Exchange

The Role of Local and County Governments

- Using Strong Zoning and Consistent Land Use Planning to Protect Agriculture: Paul Miller, DeKalb County and SuzAnne Ehardt, McHenry County

Tools for Permanent Land Protection: Agricultural Conservation Easements

- National: A 15-County Comparison: Anita Zurbrugg, American Farmland Trust
- State: Ohio's Successful Program: Kristen Jensen, Program Manager
- County: Two Families' Donation: Jackie Felkenstein, Boone County Farmland Commission

Will the Public Pay to Support Farmland Protection Programs?

- Panel participants will discuss: Federal Farm and Ranchlands Funding, Illinois Legislative Initiatives, and Private Equity Models

Saturday, February 2, 2008

Farmland Initiatives Taking Shape in Illinois

- Illinois Open Space and Farmland Program: Steve Black, The Land Conservancy Southwestern Illinois RC&D
- Food, Farms and Jobs Act: Debbie Hillman, Evanston Food Policy Council

The Role of Land Trusts in Farmland Protection

- Kendall County: Dan Lobbes, The Conservation Foundation
- McHenry County: Lisa Haderlein, The Land Conservancy of McHenry County

Instilling the Value of Farming into a Community Vision

- Education and Outreach Examples: Garfield Farm and Spence Farm

The Opportunities and Pitfalls of Agri-tourism

One Individual's Personal Commitment to Farmland Protection:

- American Farmland Trust Steward of the Land Nomination from Illinois Celebrating Marvel Davis, Big Rock, Illinois



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REGISTRATION

FULL NAME

ORGANIZATION

ADDRESS

CITY, STATE, ZIP

PHONE

EMAIL

CREDIT CARD NUMBER (MASTERCARD AND VISA ONLY)

EXPIRATION

SIGNATURE

CONFERENCE RATES

- Friday Only \$30
- Saturday Only \$15
- Both Days \$40

PAYMENT METHOD

- Charge my credit card as above
- Enclosed check
- Cash or check at door

Please complete this form by **January 25, 2008** and mail, fax, call or email with your payment

Openlands

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Fax: (312) 863-6251

Call: (312) 863-6250

Email: slegare@openlands.org (Sherry Legare)

For other questions call Stacy Meyers-Glen, Openlands Policy Coordinator at (312) 863-6265 or visit www.openlands.org. Sponsored by Openlands, a regional conservation organization, and funded by a grant from the Gaylord and Dorothy Donnelley Foundation.

Directions to the Conference

Elgin Community College
 Fox Valley University &
 Business Center
SIEGLE AUDITORIUM
 1700 Spartan Drive,
 Elgin, IL 60123
 847- 931-3925

Main Campus Parking Map Park in Lot 9

- ATC** - Advanced Technology Center
- CAC** - Culinary Arts Center
- EVC** - Spartan Events Center
- HBT** - Health & Business Technology Center
- ITR** - Industry Training Center
- ICT** - Instruction Center
- M** - Maintenance Building
- MSC** - Math & Science Center
- SRC** - Student Resource Center

UBC - Fox Valley University & Business Center
SIEGLE AUDITORIUM

VPA - Visual & Performing Arts Center

