

Conservator

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE LAND CONSERVANCY OF HAMILTON COUNTY, OHIO / JULY 2011

JOIN US AT OUR SUMMER MEETING AT THE 4-H FAIR!

Mon., July 11 at 6 PM

What better place to have a summer meeting than at the **1st Annual Hamilton County 4-H Community Fair** at Stricker's Grove in Crosby Township. We look forward to celebrating the 4-H experience — "Where Everyone is Part of Our World"!

The enclosed post card has all the details. Be sure to present it at the gate for free admission for two adults and two children on July 11.

Join us in the Livestock Pavilion for our presentation at 6 PM to bring you



Shady picnic area in Stricker's Grove

up to date on Land Conservancy activities. Then learn first hand about 4-H from Youth Development Director **Tonya Horvath** and young 4-H participants with their show animals.

This event is a great opportunity to find out more about 4-H and the important work of the young members and their volunteer leaders.

— Fulfilling our mission right here at home —

CONSERVING LAND WHERE WE LIVE

Hamilton County is a beautiful place to call home. It is blessed with forested ridges and hillsides, river valleys and historic farmland. These irreplaceable land and water resources support our city and suburban, semi-rural and agricultural communities. These natural assets also define our treasured "sense of place."



Conservation Easement, landowners continue to own the property and live there, and can also plan for future uses, such as additional homesites. And, they can take advantage of important tax benefits in their lifetime.

A work in progress
Our newest CE project — protecting a historic family farm in northern Colerain Township— has begun. With a

landscape of parallel ridges and ravines, the property ranges from scenic, rolling grasslands to majestic old growth walnuts and oaks in the deep forest. The farm supports active hay and soybean production and sustainable timber.

Protecting family lands

The Land Conservancy holds and stewards Conservation Easements protecting scenic and/or agricultural values for ten private

AGRICULTURE IN HAMILTON COUNTY

... is an industry of great value, a vital economic engine for our local economy. Agriculture contributes billions annually in output and employs many thousands of people in food-related jobs in Hamilton County.

Farming is a way of life. Its future is important to all who value



the many benefits agriculture brings to Hamilton County— including having access to locally-grown foods.

In 2009, 21,000 acres of land in Hamilton County were used by 260 farms for agricultural production.

Hamilton County's Green Industry, which includes nursery and horticultural services and products, is the third largest in production agriculture out of 88 Ohio counties.

By sustaining agricultural uses, we also preserve Hamilton County's land heritage, and safeguard our life-sustaining natural resources.

properties. The lands total 278 acres, with the largest being Turner Farm, and the smallest: a half-acre greenspace in an urbanizing neighborhood. In addition, we own and protect nature preserves in Westwood, Green Township, and Whitewater Township.

The Land Conservancy is helping to protect Hamilton County's great natural heritage. We work with families who want to determine today what happens to their land in the future.

Choosing conservation

It is a great power -- and a choice landowners can make -- to legally and permanently protect family land from unwanted future development. With a