



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Cuyahoga Valley
National Park

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Cuyahoga Valley National Park News Release

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Cuyahoga Valley Countryside Program Offers Three Farms for Lease

Brecksville, Ohio – Cuyahoga Valley National Park (CVNP), in conjunction with Cuyahoga Valley Countryside Conservancy (CVCC), is announcing the next round of long-term lease offerings under the Countryside Initiative program. The Countryside Initiative invites farmers to live and farm in the park using sustainable methods appropriate for a national park while promoting farming that will produce high quality specialty products for direct, local, retail sale. Already, CVNP has 8 farms in operation under this program including a vineyard and winery, vegetable and egg operations, livestock, pick-your-own and a community-supported vegetable farm. Farm products are marketed through a growing range of venues including pick-your-own farms, community-supported agriculture, roadside stands, local farmers markets, and direct sales to individuals and restaurants.

The current recruitment seeks lessees for the Martin, Leyser and Gleeson farms located in Bath, Brecksville and Valley View; each farm includes a residence (rehabilitated), outbuildings and fields (16, 10 and 25 acres, respectively). The farms are suitable for operations including fruit and vegetable production, management-intensive grazing, and integrated crop-livestock enterprises. The farms are available for long-term leases up to 60 years. The selection of proposals, managed as a competitive process for the individual farms, will be based on the proposal's agricultural and economic soundness, responsiveness to a national park setting, engagement of the public, etc.

The Countryside Initiative and the process of submitting farming proposals are fully described in the Request for Proposals (RFP) publication now available. The RFP includes background information about program objectives and administration, information about the three farmsteads available, a description of the information to be included in proposals and the process of proposal evaluation and selection. To receive a copy of the RFP, interested parties should contact Stephanie Webb, CVCC, 2179 Everett Road, Peninsula, OH 44264, (330) 657-2542, or swebb@cvcountryside.org or visit www.cvcountryside.org.

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Open houses for the farms will be held May 5th/6th and May 22nd/23rd; call for times and locations. Completed proposals are due by 3 p.m., Monday June 16, 2008. Final selection of proposals is expected in summer 2008 with occupancy to follow by late summer/early fall 2008.

CVNP encompasses 33,000 acres along the Cuyahoga River between Cleveland and Akron. Managed by the National Park Service, CVNP combines cultural, historical, recreational, and natural activities in one setting. Visitors can hike, bike, birdwatch, golf, fish, ski, ride Cuyahoga Valley Scenic Railroad, explore the history of the Ohio & Erie Canal on a 20-mile section of the Towpath Trail, and attend national park ranger-guided programs, concerts, art exhibits, and more. For more information about the park, visit www.nps.gov/cuva/ or www.dayinthevalley.com/ or call (216) 524-1497 or (800) 445-9667.

CVCC is a non-profit organization created in 1999 to conceptualize and help implement a management program for the picturesque but deteriorating old farms still surviving within the boundaries of CVNP. For more information about CVCC, visit www.cvcountryside.org or call (330) 657-2542

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