



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Cuyahoga Valley
National Park

15610 Vaughn Road
Brecksville OH 44141

www.nps.gov/cuva
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Cuyahoga Valley National Park News Release

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Cuyahoga Valley Countryside Program Offers Farm for Lease

Brecksville, Ohio – Cuyahoga Valley National Park (CVNP), in conjunction with Cuyahoga Valley Countryside Conservancy (CVCC), announce 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, and retail sale. Currently, CVNP has 11 farms in operation under this program including a vineyard and winery, vegetable and egg operations, livestock, and pick-your-own and community-supported vegetable farms. A growing range of venues market farm products, 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 Edgar Farm located in Valley View. The farm includes a rehabilitated residence, a smaller, non-rehabilitated residence, outbuildings, and 35 acres of fields. The farm is suitable for several operations including fruit and vegetable production, management-intensive grazing, and integrated crop-livestock enterprises. The farm is available for long-term lease up to 60 years. The selection of a proposal, managed as a competitive process for the farm, will be based on the proposal's agricultural and economic soundness, responsiveness to a national park setting, engagement of the public, etc.

The *Request for Proposals* (RFP) publication that fully describes the Countryside Initiative and the process of submitting a farming proposal is now available. The RFP includes background information about program objectives and administration, information about the farmstead, a description of the information to be included in a proposal, and an explanation of 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, swebb@cvcountryside.org, or visit www.cvcountryside.org and go to the section on CVNP Farming.

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Open houses for the Edgar Farm will be held November 19 and November 23; call (330) 657-2542 for times and locations. Completed proposals are due at park headquarters by 12 noon on January 15, 2010.

Mail or deliver to:

National Park Service Headquarters
Cuyahoga Valley National Park
15610 Vaughn Road
Brecksville, Ohio 44141

Final selection of proposal is expected in early spring 2010 with occupancy to follow by early summer 2010.

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.

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. For more information about the park, visit www.nps.gov/cuva/ or www.dayinthevalley.com/ or call (216) 524-1497 or (800) 445-9667.

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