

Land Use on Preserved Farms

For the future, maximizing land for the most beneficial use is essential. Whether city or rural, planning and establishing land uses that ensures sustainability for our grandchildren, nature and the planet, must be our goal. Charlie and Christi Loverich of Loverich Farm in Upper Tulpehocken Township have taken the steps to reach that end. They stated “In anticipation of retirement and to preserve a way of life that is sadly disappearing, we made the decision to preserve our property by selling the 75 acre farm development rights in 2014.” They have been farming for 30 years and their family for generations in Lebanon County. To attain the most benefits for their beef cow/calf operation, a rotational grazing system is used, which divides productive land into paddocks for both hay production and pasturing. They installed underground water systems with frost-free hydrants that water cattle in each paddock, developed rotational winter lots to protect soil and water quality, and built a covered manure storage structure. The farm has three ponds, a creek and a tributary. Concerned about water, they attended an information session and became aware of programs aimed at enhancing habitat, and protecting and improving water quality. “ We became involved with federal and local agencies and were given advice and monetary assistance to help us make changes to our operation. We wanted to ensure that the water that leaves our property is as clean or cleaner than when it entered our boundaries and to help protect the Delaware Bay where the water ultimately empties.” Practices established include stream bank fencing, planting over 800 trees and shrubs that enlarged and enhanced the existing riparian buffers. The Loverichs stated; “We can’t imagine doing anything else but farming, especially at this stage of our lives. We are most proud of the fact that the farm has been protected and will remain a farm for generations to come. We have a breath-taking view of the Blue Mountains, and our ponds draw all kinds of wildlife and some provide food for the table. We have birds, deer, ducks, raccoons, egrets, geese, fox, turtles, frogs, fish and coyotes to name a few. After we leave, others will be able to enjoy this place as much or more than we have.” I have worked with many dedicated farmers in my career. The Loverichs are wonderful examples of planning and maximizing production and natural habitats.