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West Central Ohio Land Conservancy

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Helping People Preserve Their Heritage

-For Immediate Release-

West Central Ohio Land Conservancy and Ohio Department of Agriculture to hold Agriculture Easement Information Session January 7, 6:30 PM at Riverbend Lodge

Area farm landowners can find out how to apply for Clean Ohio Agricultural Easement Purchase Program funds for your farmland at an information session being offered in the Findlay area by the West Central Ohio Land Conservancy (WCOLC) in partnership with the Ohio Department of Agriculture (ODA).

The information session will explore opportunities to preserve your farmland through the Clean Ohio Fund's Agricultural Easement Purchase Program (AEPP). The meeting will feature an AEPP presentation by ODA's Executive Director Kristen Jensen, testimony from landowners who have participated in the program and potential tax benefits to the AEPP and conservation easements presented by the West Central Ohio Land Conservancy (WCOLC). Meeting attendees will also have the opportunity to discuss the program with Ohio Department of Agriculture staff.

Agricultural easements are voluntary legal agreements restricting non-agricultural development on farmland, with the land itself remaining on the tax rolls and under private ownership and management. Landowners may undertake any agricultural activity permitted under Ohio law, and they can sell their farm or pass it along as a gift to others. However, the easement remains with the land, prohibiting any future non-agricultural development to make certain that it remains used for agricultural purposes.

Members of the WCOLC will be present to provide information and direction to landowners. It is important for attendees to connect with the WCOLC, who submit the applications to the department on behalf of farm owners.

Intended audience: Farm Landowners

Registration Details: Free and open to the public, no registration necessary

Sponsor(s): West Central Ohio Land Conservancy, Hancock and Hardin County Farm Bureaus, Ag Credit

The meeting time and location is as follows:

January 7, 2010 Doors open at 6:00 p.m. with light refreshments

Meeting from 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.

Brugeman Lodge at Riverbend: located at the Hancock Park District Riverbend Recreation Area 9250 Marion Township Road 208, Findlay, OH 45840. Due to road construction in the area, please follow the detour signs from State Route 568 to The Lodge or review the detour map on Hancock Parks web site <http://www.hancockparks.com/> main page. If you get lost, please call 419-429-7323 for assistance.

Contact the West Central Ohio Land Conservancy with any questions about the meetings at 567-204-9126.

Media Contact: Amanda Wischmeyer, WCOLC President, 567-204-5101
