

Landowners Receive Recognition for Stewardship, VA

While conservation easements are a valuable tool, many land owners also use best management practices on their properties to protect land and water quality. Recent easement donor Wagon Wheel Ranch, a 151-acre beef farm in Frederick County, Virginia, supplements permanent protection with practices such as rotational grazing, off-stream watering for livestock, and streambank fencing. The ranch supports an active beef cattle operation while also protecting 30 forested acres and one mile of frontage along Cedar Creek.

Two easement donors to Potomac Conservancy have been commended recently by the Commonwealth of Virginia for their conservation efforts. David Garms, who donated an easement on his 223-acre Shenandoah County farm in 2004, has been recognized by the Virginia Department of Forestry as a Forest Steward. The award highlights David's ethical management of his farm's natural resources. Caroline Stalnaker, owner of Mount Pleasant Farm on Cedar Creek in Shenandoah County, Virginia, was presented with the Governor's Environmental Excellence Award.