

**Countryside Initiative 2008 RFP: Supplemental Information
Farm Tour Questions and Answers**

General Questions

- 1) **Q. Could I hold the lease to the farm but hire a farm manager to live and work onsite?**
A. Yes
- 2) **Q. What if I submit plans in my proposal but several years after executing the lease decide to grow a different product altogether, is that permitted?**
A. Yes, with approval
- 3) **Q. As the lessee will I meet on a regular basis with Conservancy and National Park Service staff? Or is this more of an informal relationship?**
A. You will normally have informal conversations, onsite or otherwise, with Conservancy and National Park Service staff, many times per year. From time to time more formal meetings are held to deal with issues raised by either lessees or the lessor.
- 4) **Q. Can I submit several proposals for the same or different properties in this round?**
A. Yes
- 5) **Q. Is the lessee able to mow in the designated wetland buffer areas?**
A. No
- 6) **Q. What if CVNP determines there are existing natural resources on a Countryside Initiative property, could CVNP abort the lease?**
A. That would be very unlikely
- 7) **Q. Are Countryside Initiative farms required to obey local zoning laws?**
A. Not necessarily. All of the farms in this and other RFPs are on federal land, and the federal government's right to allow farming activities on its land supersedes local zoning laws that might restrict farming.

Gleeson Farm

- 8) **Q. Could I establish a timber frame enterprise onsite, as a secondary business?**
A. Yes
- 9) **Q. If I am interested in establishing a farmers' market onsite, will an Environmental Assessment be required for building a parking lot?**
A. Yes, probably.

- 10) Q. What entity would approve or license the operation of an onsite farmers' market?**
A. Both National Park Service and local community would need to approve the market.

- 11) Q. How will I access the farm fields adjacent to the Towpath?**
A. There is an entry from Canal Road to the Towpath Trail, and from the trail to the field.

Leyser Farm

- 12) Q. In order to establish a retail farming operation on the 4 acre field at Snowville Road, it would be necessary for me to have an established parking lot onsite. Would that be permitted?**
A. We believe that can be approved in some form. CVNP would work with the lessee to secure approval from the field's owner (Cleveland Metroparks).
- 13) Q. Could I build a semi-permanent structure for housing equipment on the 4 acre field?**
A. We believe approval can be secured from Cleveland MetroParks.

Martin Farm

- 14) Q. Could the bank barn and milk house be rebuilt using the old foundations?**
A. We see no reason to prohibit this in principle.
- 15) Q. Do original photos/drawings exist of the bank barn?**
A. Yes, but CVNP would not want the structures rebuilt to appear as if they were the original structures.
- 16) Q. Will the well be tested prior to leasing?**
A. The park will test the well to see if the water is potable prior to executing the lease. It will not be tested for capacity/rate of recovery.
- 17) Q. Could the old well pump be updated for aesthetic purposes?**
A. Yes, with approval.
- 18) Q. Can the free gas be used for farming purposes?**
A. We expect that the lessee will have access to a significant quantity of free natural gas for farm use. CVNP is attempting to confirm this with the gas company.
- 19) Q. If the gas well goes dry how will that affect the heat for the home?**
A. Natural gas can be obtained from the main line passing through the area. It would also be possible to convert to propane.
- 20) Q. Could I build a modest poultry processing facility onsite?**
A. Yes, with approval.

