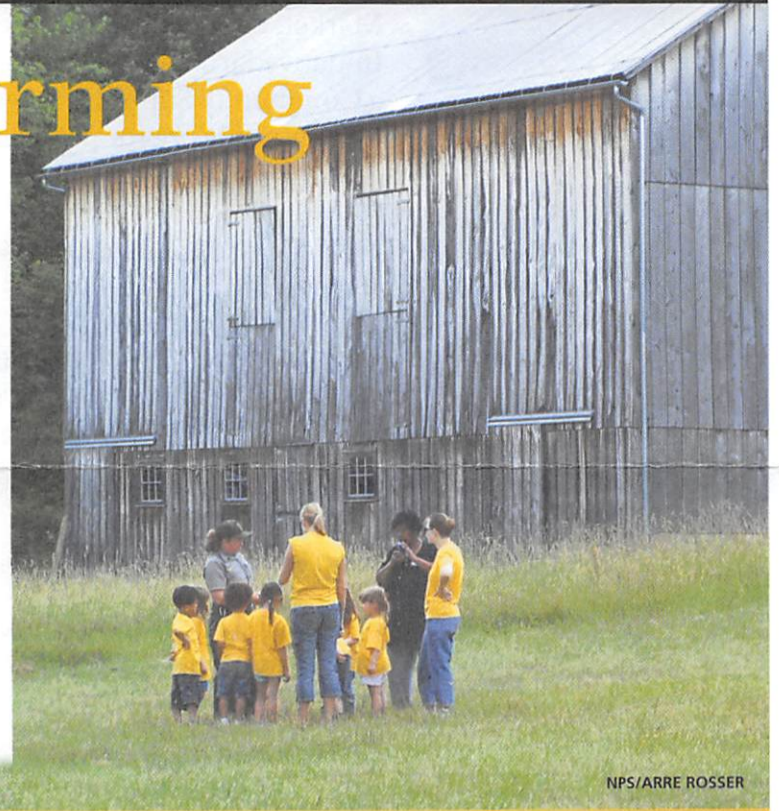




## Rethinking Farming

Farming has been a prominent part of the Cuyahoga Valley since the early 1800s. In order to preserve and revitalize the valley's rural scenery and farming heritage, Cuyahoga Valley National Park (CVNP) has developed a program called the Countryside Initiative. This program invites farmers to live and farm in the park using sustainable methods appropriate for a national park. The success of the program is due to a three-part partnership between the National Park Service (NPS), the Countryside Conservancy, and the farmers.



NPS/ARRE ROSSER

### A Lived-in Landscape



NPS/ARRE ROSSER

Cuyahoga Valley's landscapes have evolved through the interplay of people and nature, from the first hunter-gatherers to modern farmers. Today the valley's rural farm fields and associated buildings are among the most historic and scenic resources in the park. In 1974 Congress created CVNP to preserve and protect "the historic, scenic, natural, and recreational" resources of the Cuyahoga Valley, including this farming heritage. The Countryside Initiative fulfills this mandate while demonstrating land use practices that promote a healthy relationship between people and the land.

NPS owns the farms while the Countryside Conservancy, a non-profit created in 1999, provides expertise in sustainable agriculture to assist both park staff and the farmers in the program.

The farmers are carefully selected through a competitive request for proposal process. The NPS grants long-term leases of farmsteads and associated fields to private citizens who demonstrate the

ability to practice sustainable farming. As part of their park agreement, the farmers are also expected to offer recreational and educational opportunities for park visitors.

Nine farms currently operate in the park. The vision is for 15 to 20 farms, using approximately 1,350 acres, or about five percent, of park lands. The farms pursue small, diversified crop and livestock operations that target local specialty and niche markets. The first pilot farms were established in 2002 and others have been created since then. As a result, farms are at various stages of development.



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### Farming in a National Park



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The Countryside Initiative promotes living, working farms that represent the rural heritage of the Cuyahoga Valley, while protecting cultural and natural resources. Many farm buildings are rehabilitated historic structures. Modifications to the buildings and associated grounds require careful review to maintain the cultural integrity of the

property. Natural buffers between farm fields and neighboring streams and wetlands protect water resources. Farmers pursue sustainable practices that include diversified crop selection, crop and livestock rotation, and minimal use of pesticides.



## Meeting the Farmers

Countryside Conservancy's mission is to connect people, food, and land. There are several ways that you can get connected and support local food in Northeast Ohio: contact the Countryside Initiative farmers directly, visit a Countryside Farmers' Market, or attend a Countryside U class. The following is a list of Countryside Initiative farms as of spring 2015. Products may vary seasonally. Some farms offer a Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) program. Contact the farm or visit [cvcountryside.org](http://cvcountryside.org) for product details.

**Brunty Farms**  
2470 Martin Road, Akron 44333  
330-594-7315  
[bruntyfarms.com](http://bruntyfarms.com)  
CSA, on-farm sales (meat, eggs, honey),  
Countryside Farmers' Market vendor

**Canal Corners Farm & Market**  
7243 Canal Road, Valley View 44125  
216-624-3916  
[facebook.com/CanalCorners](https://facebook.com/CanalCorners)  
CSA, on-farm sales (produce, flowers),  
Countryside Farmers' Market vendor

**Goatfeathers Point Farm**  
4570 Akron Peninsula Road,  
Peninsula 44264  
330-657-2726  
On-farm sales (meat, eggs)

**Greenfield Berry Farm**  
2485 Major Road, Peninsula 44264  
330-657-2924  
[greenfieldberryfarm.com](http://greenfieldberryfarm.com)  
CSA, on-farm sales (produce, honey),  
Countryside Farmers' Market vendor

**Neitenbach Farm**  
3077 Akron Peninsula Road,  
Akron 44313  
330-321-9026  
[facebook.com/TheNeitenbachFarm](https://facebook.com/TheNeitenbachFarm)  
CSA, Countryside Farmers' Market vendor

**Sarah's Vineyard**  
1204 West Steels Corners Road,  
Cuyahoga Falls 44223  
330-929-8057  
[sarahsvineyardwinery.com](http://sarahsvineyardwinery.com)  
On-farm sales (wine, art), restaurant

**Spice Acres**  
9570 Riverview Road, Brecksville 44141  
[hello@spiceacres.com](mailto:hello@spiceacres.com)  
[spiceacres.com](http://spiceacres.com)  
Products vary

**The Spicy Lamb Farm**  
6560 Akron Peninsula Road,  
Peninsula 44264  
330-657-2012  
[thespicylamb.com](http://thespicylamb.com)  
On-farm sales (meat, wool crafts)

**Trapp Family Farm**  
1019 West Streetsboro Road  
Peninsula 44264  
330-657-2844  
[facebook.com/TrappFamilyFarm](https://facebook.com/TrappFamilyFarm)  
CSA, on-farm sales (produce,  
meat, eggs)

### Countryside Farmers' Markets

Local food abounds in Northeast Ohio. Visit Countryside Farmers' Markets year-round for fresh fruit and vegetables, pasture-raised meats, artisan cheese, unique bakery items, and much more—all from local vendors. Markets accept debit cards and Ohio Direction cards. For dates, locations, special events, and other information, call 330-657-2542 or visit [cvcountryside.org](http://cvcountryside.org).

### Countryside U

Get inspired at one of Countryside U's classes for home cooks, gardeners, and beginning farmers. Learn to create the perfect crust on a loaf of artisan bread, develop the snap in a homemade pickle, or explore what life is like on a small farm. Classes are taught by local experts, engaging the best talent in Northeast Ohio. For upcoming classes, schedules, and other information, call 330-657-2542 or visit [cvcountryside.org](http://cvcountryside.org).



[cvcountryside.org](http://cvcountryside.org)  
[nps.gov/cuva](http://nps.gov/cuva)

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