

For Immediate Release

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UPSTATE FOREVER ANNOUNCES PROTECTION OF HIGH MEADOWS

Upstate Forever is thrilled to announce our very first conservation agreement in Abbeville County, the beautiful *High Meadows*! This expansive agricultural property, owned Dr. Michael Fry, is over 1,000 acres of rolling Piedmont pasture currently used for grazing cattle. High Meadows is currently the largest property with a single owner protected in partnership with Upstate Forever. This picturesque property is not only prime farmland, but adjoins a pre-Civil War historic home, thus ensuring that the home remains surrounded by the same landscape in which it was constructed. The property also contains frontage along Shanklin Creek and important wildlife habitat.

Dr. Fry's love and conscientious management of his land, coupled with the enhanced Federal tax incentives set to expire at the end of this year, were the catalyst for his decision to permanently protect his property. "I wanted to ensure the integrity of this land is intact long after I am no longer the steward," remarked Dr. Fry.

"The beauty of High Meadows is breathtaking and Dr. Fry's management has done much to enhance the conservation values. This is a great event to celebrate," says Dana Leavitt, Land Trust Director at Upstate Forever.

Dr. Fry's conservation agreement permanently protects High Meadows from industrial, commercial and retail uses, residential subdivisions, parking lots, billboards, and mining, while allowing him to continue traditional uses like hunting, fishing, farming, harvesting timber and living (limited number of residences). A conservation agreement keeps the property in private ownership, is completely voluntary, and does not impact the property's ability to be sold or left to heirs. For more information protecting your land with a conservation agreement visit www.upstateforever.org

Upstate Forever is a regional conservation organization, which works to promote sensible growth and to protect special places in the Upstate. Currently, Upstate Forever has worked with 68 landowners to protect 12,660 acres of farms, fields, and forests in the Upstate using conservation agreements. Abbeville was added as the tenth county in

Upstate Forever's region in 2008 as the organization celebrated its tenth anniversary.

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