

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Upstate Forever

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SEMINAR PROVIDES LANDOWNERS/ADVISORS WITH TOOLS FOR “PLANNING THE FUTURE OF YOUR FARM”

Greenville, S.C.– February 22, 2011 – Owners of farm, forest or rural property and their professional advisors are invited to attend one of three regional seminars and learn about the tools they can use to plan for their property’s future. Twenty-one natural resource partners including Upstate County Soil and Water Conservation Districts, three Resource Conservation & Development Councils (RC&D), the Natural Resources Conservation Service and seven local land trusts are partnering to bring this 2.5 hour seminar to Just More Barbecue in Pendleton on March 15 at 10am; the Cleveland Park Event Center in Spartanburg on March 15 at 3:30pm; and the James C. Self Conference Center at Piedmont Tech on March 31 at 5:00pm.

Among the tools that will be discussed is the conservation agreement, which allows you to protect your property, keep it in your family, continue farming and timbering it, and earn significant tax benefits. These benefits have been dramatically improved, especially for farmers and middle-income families, but are available only for land protected in 2011.

“A lot of thought and planning has gone into these workshops to bring in speakers that are experts in estate planning for rural landowners,” said Dave Demarest, Foothills RC&D Coordinator. “It will be well worth your time to register and learn how you can use these tools to benefit your farm planning. There will also be a panel of farmers that will share their experience with utilizing conservation agreements and other estate planning tools.”

Continuing Education Credits will be provided for Accountants (1.5 hours), Attorneys (1.5 hours), Financial Planners (1.5 hours, approval pending) and Foresters (2 hours).

Pre-registration is required. The registration fee is \$5 and includes a barbecue meal. To learn more, please visit <http://www.upstateforever.org/FutureOfYourFarmConf.pdf>. To register, call 864-250-0500 or gwilson@upstateforever.org.

These three seminars are sponsored by The USDA Risk Management Agency, AgSouth Farm Credit, Stone and Associates, Inc. and UBS The Gallivan Group. Presenting Partners include Abbeville County Soil and Water Conservation District, Anderson County Soil and Water Conservation District, Chattooga Conservancy, Cherokee County Soil and Water Conservation District, East Piedmont RC&D Council, Foothills RC&D Council, Greenville County Soil and Water Conservation District, Greenwood County Soil and Water Conservation District, Laurens County Soil and Water Conservation District, Naturaland Trust, Natural Resource Conservation Service, Ninety-Six District RC&D Council, Oconee County Soil and Water Conservation District, Pacolet Area Conservancy, Pickens County Soil and Water Conservation District, Spartanburg Area Conservancy, Spartanburg County Soil and Water Conservation District, Tyger River Foundation, Union County Soil and Water Conservation District, Upper Savannah Land Trust and Upstate Forever

About Upstate Forever:

Upstate Forever is a nonprofit, membership-based organization that promotes sensible growth and protects special places in the ten-county Upstate region. It has three main programs: Land Trust, Clean Air and Water, and Sustainable Communities. Visit www.upstateforever.org for more information.