



Courtesy of Upstate Forever

Upstate Forever, a Greenville-based conservation group, has made its first conservation agreement in Abbeville County for land named High Meadows.

Abbeville County

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## Upstate Forever protects 1,000 acres

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A 1,000-acre plot in Abbeville County was re-

cently added to Upstate Forever's list of protected properties.

It is the first piece of land in the county to be protected by Upstate Forever. In

2008 Abbeville became the 10th and latest county to join the Greenville-based conservation group.

The property, which is called High Meadows, is in Piedmont, has pasture currently used for grazing cattle and is now the largest single piece of land that has been partnered with Upstate Forever, according to the organization.

It also is next to a pre-Civil War historic home and has frontage on Shanklin Creek.

"I wanted to ensure the integrity of this land is intact long after I am no longer the steward," said Dr. Michael Fry, who put the land in the Upstate Forever's trust.

Dana Leavitt, Upstate Forever land trust director, said properties in the trust can still belong to their owners, such as Fry, but limits will forever exist on how the land can be used.

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**Dr. Michael Fry**

put land in Upstate Forever trust

ment protects the High Meadows property from industrial, commercial, retail, subdivision, parking lot, billboard and mining uses. Leavitt said Fry's property can also not be split up, and so will remain at its nearly 1,000 acres.

The agreement allows for a limited number of homes and outdoor activities. The land stays in private ownership and can be sold. Upstate Forever has worked with 68 landowners to protect 12,660 acres of farms, fields and forests with conservation agreements.