

# Holding On to the Homestead



**A Guide to Programs, Services, and Options for Tennessee's Farmers**

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## **A Guide to Programs, Services, and Options for Tennessee Farmers**

A Public Service Project of the  
Center for Historic Preservation at  
Middle Tennessee State University  
in cooperation with  
Central Basin Resource Conservation and Development Council  
Cumberland Region Tomorrow  
Greater Nashville Regional Council  
Land Trust for Tennessee  
Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency

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August 2005

Cover: Overview of the Miller Century Farm (Dickson County), founded 1881 and listed on the National Register of Historic Places, is provided courtesy of Allison Morgan, *Tennessee Cooperator*.

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The basic wealth of Tennessee has traditionally been its family farms and agrarian communities. For more than 200 years of statehood, the culture, lifestyle, and economy of the state has depended on and revolved around agriculture. While the transformation from a rural to urban landscape is evident in many areas of Tennessee, the farming population, products, and agriculturally productive farm lands continue to contribute significantly and positively to our state. Maintaining this viable agricultural base, requires that farmers continue to be able to make a living and a life on the land. To do so, farmers need to be knowledgeable about available options that can assist them in making their businesses successful.

The idea for this directory originated with the Farmland Preservation Coalition, under the leadership of Phil Armor with the Greater Nashville Regional Council. The adhoc group includes representatives from government, business, education, and nonprofit sectors. Realizing that a great many programs and services exist for the benefit of farmers but also recognizing that a directory to these services was not available, the idea for this publication emerged.

The MTSU Center for Historic Preservation (CHP) coordinated the research, data compilation, and production of the printed guide and online edition. Also sponsoring this project are the Central Basin Resource Conservation and Development Council; Cumberland Region Tomorrow; Greater Nashville Regional Council; the Land Trust for Tennessee; and the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency.

Nancy Adgent, historian and Marshall County farmer, was the principal researcher and compiler for this project. Caneta Skelley Hankins, assistant director of the CHP and director of the Tennessee Century Farms Program, coordinates this ongoing project. Images are from the Web sites of the organizations, and photographs are from the collection of the CHP unless otherwise noted. MTSU Publications and Graphics provided the design and layout of this directory.

While no publication could include all programs and services that benefit farmers, this directory and the accompanying online version are designed to offer information on some of the resources available to the experienced farmer as well as those beginning or considering farming in Tennessee. Inclusion in the directory does not necessarily constitute an endorsement or guarantee of the agency, organization, program, or service.

Questions, comments, and additional changes to this publication may be directed to:

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## HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

Think of this guide as a directory of topics that may have interest or potential benefit for you. Within the topics, then, are listed various agencies and organizations with a description of their programs and services as well as contact information.

The CONTENTS page, directly following this page, provides a general overview of the topics offered in each of the three primary sections which are (1) ADDED VALUE AND INCOME; (2) FINANCIAL AND LEGAL SUPPORT; and (3) RURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AND PROTECTION.

Within each of these three primary sections (tabbed for your convenience), a more detailed contents page lists programs and services offered under each topic. Federal, state, educational, and non-profit organizations and agencies are listed in that order as they apply to a particular topic.

A brief description and contact information including Web site addresses (in most instances) is provided for each agency or organization listed. Because some agencies deal with more than one topic, they appear multiple times in the guide.

For your additional convenience and information, The APPENDIX (also tabbed) offers a directory of contact information for selected agencies or organizations that have offices across the state.

We hope this guide will prove useful to you. Future updates will be made to the online version at <http://histpres.mtsu.edu>.

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