MISSION

Our mission is to connect people, food and land through programs, advocacy and education. We work to ensure that people have access to local, healthy food; that farm and food entrepreneurs have the resources to operate viable businesses; and that farmland is protected and preserved.

VISION

We envision healthy soils, waterways and communities that demonstrate farmland, farmers and food entrepreneurs can thrive in concert with the ecosystem and that farmland remains a healthy, cherished resource. All the while, creating a culture where good, local food is accessible to all.

DONATE

Countryside is a 501(c)3 Non-Profit
Help us drive social, economic, and environmental change!

ONLINE

Visit countrysidefoodandfarms.org

BY PHONE

Call Countryside at 234-334-4622

BY MAIL

Send check payable to Countryside to:
Countryside
4965 Quick Road
Peninsula, Ohio 44264

In partnership with:

KEEP UP WITH US!

@countrysidefoodandfarms

www.countrysidefoodandfarms.org
**FARMING**

This program connects beginning farmers with valuable resources through agricultural technical assistance, business support, farmlink, internship and apprenticeship opportunities. Our goal is to create a hands-on learning environment, paired with classroom style workshops, to inspire and educate those who are passionate about pursuing a career in agriculture.

**HISTORY**

1999
Countryside was founded by Darwin Kelsey and incorporated as a nonprofit organization. He was recruited to work on a land tenure project dubbed the Countryside Initiative.

2001
The first Request for Proposals for Countryside Initiative farm leases was distributed.

2004
The first Countryside Farmers’ Market opens in Cuyahoga Valley National Park at the Heritage Tree Farm. This market moved to Howe Meadow in 2009.

2009
Countryside launched food access programming.

2011
Countryside established a farmers’ market in Akron’s Highland Square neighborhood.

2018
Countryside launched its Beginning Farmer Intern and Apprentice Program.

**MARKETS**

Countryside began managing the first farmers’ markets in a National Park in 2004. We host 3 seasonal markets, providing year-round access to locally-produced foods and goods. They serve 80+ vendors and 50,000+ customers each year. Since 2014, annual vendor sales have exceeded $1 million.

**COUNTRYSIDE INITIATIVE**

This innovative program began in 1999 as a way to preserve and protect the rural landscape in Cuyahoga Valley National Park. To date, there are over a dozen restored farm properties in the program. The farms and Countryside bring in over 100,000 people into the park each year and have an economic impact of over a million dollars per year.

**COUNTRYSIDE BEGINNING FARMER PROGRAM**

This program connects beginning farmers with valuable resources through agricultural technical assistance, business support, farmlink, internship and apprenticeship opportunities. Our goal is to create a hands-on learning environment, paired with classroom style workshops, to inspire and educate those who are passionate about pursuing a career in agriculture.

**FARMERS’ MARKETS**

Countryside Farmers’ Markets accept SNAP (food assistance) and offer Produce Perks, a matching incentive for the purchase of locally-grown, fresh produce. Countryside is a regional spoke for the Produce Perks program and facilitates it in a 4-county region. We also accept WIC and Senior Farmers’ Market Nutrition Program Vouchers, and offer Carrot Cash, a nutrition incentive for WIC clients.

**FOOD ACCESS**

Countryside Farmers' Markets accept SNAP (food assistance) and offer Produce Perks, a matching incentive for the purchase of locally-grown, fresh produce. Countryside is a regional spoke for the Produce Perks program and facilitates it in a 4-county region. We also accept WIC and Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program Vouchers, and offer Carrot Cash, a nutrition incentive for WIC clients.