



SPRING VALLEY FARMS Ronceverte, WV

A special place forever protected.



Conserving land and preserving a family legacy

For over 175 years, generations of the Dickson family have farmed one of the most scenic and productive farms in southeast West Virginia. The land has meant everything to this family. Its rich history, unique water features, and location along a scenic transportation route make it a highly desirable site for future development. Concerned about this possibility, Page Dickson, owner of Spring Valley Farm, decided to take the ultimate step and preserve her family legacy by conserving her family farm forever. Page Dickson's goal in placing a conservation easement on the property was to simply protect a beautiful, historic piece of property from development and allow future generations the opportunity to see it as it looks now.

Although Mrs. Dickson loves her land she also had to make sure that Spring Valley Farm could financially sustain itself into the foreseeable future. According to Terrell Ellis, Senior Program Manager for the West Virginia Land Trust "The discussion begins with the Land Trust understanding exactly what the land owner's hopes and wishes are for the land." Ellis continued, "After we

gain that understanding, it then becomes our job to identify the important environmental and ecological features of that land and to make sure the land owner's vision aligns with our conservation criteria and values. An easement is then crafted around both. Through discussion with the property owner we were able to balance our collective wishes for land protection with a practical approach toward keeping this a working farm."

Approximately 11 acres of Spring Valley Farm, including the main farmhouse, barns and other structures are listed on the National Register of Historic Places. This cultural gem is well known for its historic character, wide open vistas, rolling hills and significant contribution to the rural way of life in Monroe County. The farm has several important hydrologic features including several thousand linear feet of Second Creek and two large natural springs that have for generations been a fresh water source for not only the farm but the community. The carefully crafted easement ensures that these important water resources and historic qualities will forever be protected while a working farm can continue to produce crops, house cattle and provide timber revenue to the family.

"As a land owner I really felt like I could maintain my wishes for the home and that it will be preserved," said Mrs. Dickson. She continued by saying "My experience with the West Virginia Land Trust was very pleasant. I would definitely do this all over again. Thank you to the West Virginia Land Trust for helping me protect my very special place."

To take the important step to protect your special place, contact the West Virginia Land Trust today for a free consultation, 304-346-7788 or visit wvlandtrust.org