



Lower Makefield Farmland Preservation, Inc.

January 29, 2024

Dear Neighbor,

As we do every other year, we are writing to provide information about the preserved farmland that borders your property owned by Lower Makefield Farmland Preservation, Inc. ("Farmland Preservation"). Maintaining communications with our neighbors can help each of us be a 'good neighbor' and in a better position to address issues or questions that may arise.

For our new neighbors, Farmland Preservation is a 501(c)3, non-profit organization, served by volunteer Lower Makefield residents. We are not part of the Lower Makefield Township government; however, the Township appoints the members of our Board of Directors and provides important administrative and other non-financial support. Our organization was formed in the development boom of the 1980's to protect and preserve some farmland within our community out of respect for the agricultural heritage of our area and to maintain the beauty, open space and the semi-rural character. More information and history can be found on our webpage <https://www.lmt.org/government/boards-commissions/farmland-preservation-inc/>. We trust that you, as an adjoining neighbor, enjoy the open, farm feel and privacy this farmland provides and that you appreciate the important part that open space and farming plays in our community and environment.

Of course, a key to maintaining farmland is maintaining farmers to work and steward the land. As you might imagine, running a viable farming operation in our relatively densely populated community is a real challenge. Our community and Farmland Preservation are fortunate to have dedicated, responsible, and professional farmers who continue to rent and farm these lands. We are most appreciative of *Breezyvale Farms*, *Charlann Farms*, *Colavita Christmas Tree Farm*, and *Sterling Farm* for their continued operations and commitment to our community. These are local businesses that have deep family farming roots in our community, and we ask that you support them whenever you can.

Farmland Preservation owns and manages approximately 340 acres of farmland in our township. Our largest expense is the maintenance/management of trees, undergrowth and fencing along our property lines with residential neighbors, like yourself. We have a total of 11.9 miles of property lines and approximately 6.2 miles of this borders our nearly 200 residential neighbors. Most of our neighboring developments are now about 30 years old and what were once young, small trees planted by developers are now, in many cases, large and potentially problematic. Of course, removing trees safely is expensive and we do our best to keep up with demands. Money is also spent every year to control bamboo encroaching from neighboring properties. Bamboo is an invasive plant governed by Township ordinances. We ask any neighbor with bamboo on their property to please manage it away from our property lines as required by Township ordinances.



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Starting in 2021, we instituted a new regimen for mowing and cutting the approximately 25 feet buffer areas between your property line and the cropping area of the field. We have received positive feedback about the improved condition of these buffer areas, and we trust you also are pleased with the improvements.

We work hard and are dedicated to always being a good neighbor on our 'side of the fence.' As neighbors, we ask that you please do the same by managing undergrowth/vines on your side of the fence. Please remember these are actively farmed fields that are not open to the public. There is no trespassing allowed on our properties and dumping of yard waste, tree trimmings or anything else is strictly prohibited. No one is permitted to put anything on our side of the fence without the expressed written consent of Farmland Preservation. If you use a hired landscaper, we ask that you make them aware of this as well.

If you have any questions, issues, or concerns, please contact us through the LMT offices and one of our board members will get back to you. Of course, you are always welcome to attend our monthly public board meetings. You can find the schedule and access to meetings on the LMT website, <https://www.lmt.org/government/meetings-agendas-minutes/>. You can also reach us by writing to Lower Makefield Farmland Preservation, Inc., 1100 Edgewood Road, Yardley, PA 19067, or admin@lmt.org with any questions or issues.

We wish you and yours a healthy and happy 2024.

Sincerely,

Lower Makefield Farmland Preservation, Inc.

Michael Blank, President
Dan Bankoske, Treasurer
Sean Carney, Member At Large
George Heinze, Secretary
Dennis F. Steadman, Vice President