



News Release

The Little Forks Conservancy
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Farmland and Forestland Forever Protected



Ceo E. Bauer of Montcalm County has donated a conservation easement to The Little Forks Conservancy to protect 236 acres of farm and forest.

August 8, 2003

Ceo E. Bauer has donated a 236-acre conservation easement on his Bloomer Township, Montcalm County, property to The Little Forks Conservancy of Midland. The conservation easement ensures the forest, farmland and creek found on the property are forever protected as natural features of the landscape for the benefit of the community. Mr. Bauer and The Little Forks Conservancy have been working together over the past several months to finalize the terms and conditions of the conservation easement, which guarantees that Mr. Bauer's property remains undeveloped and used solely for agriculture, forestry and outdoor pursuits.

Mr. Bauer has a strong connection to this property, having grown up on the land, which has been in his family since the 1900's. He has witnessed Michigan's rural landscape become developed during his extensive traveling while he worked for the State of Michigan. Mr. Bauer's motivations for placing a conservation easement on his land are quite simple. He says he wants to

"preserve open space areas in their present natural state and to combat urban sprawl." Mr. Bauer has seen farmland developed throughout the state and wants to make sure his land does not suffer the same fate.

The property will continue to be used much as it has over the past 150 years with the open land used for agricultural production and the woods managed for a healthy forest, with one significant difference: "This conservation easement ensures that the property will benefit the wildlife habitat, water quality and the overall health of the ecosystem of the area forever," says Elan Lipschitz, LFC Land Protection Specialist, noting that this farm will continue to contribute to Montcalm County's rich history in farming and timber production.

"The Conservancy is very excited about this conservation easement," says Dan Cline, LFC president. "Mr. Bauer's generosity and foresight is a model for his fellow conservationists. He realizes the importance of wildlife habitat and the protection of our natural resources."

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Though Mr. Bauer placed a conservation easement on his land, it remains in his private ownership. The terms and conditions of the conservation easement will remain with the land for future generations, thereby ensuring the property retains the same rural character now and well into the future.

The Bauer Conservation Easement marks the sixth easement held by the Little Forks Conservancy and is its second largest thus far.

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