



The Sangamon Conservancy Trust

Trust Matters

Spring 2012

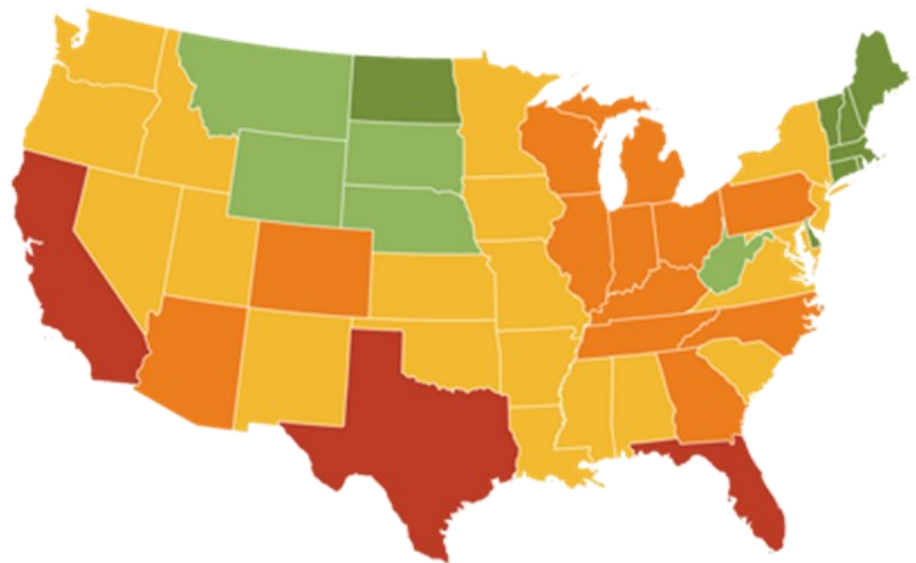
“Every minute, America has been losing more than an acre of farmland to urban sprawl and development”,

American Farmland Trust

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- Paul Briney
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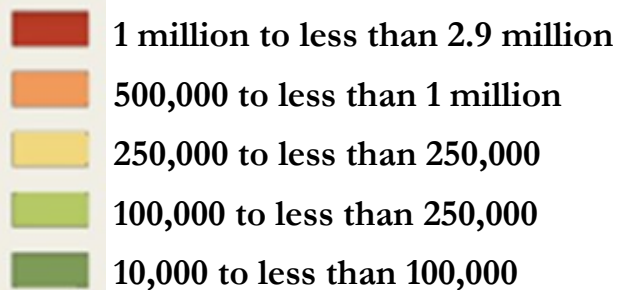
Farmland is threatened in every state.

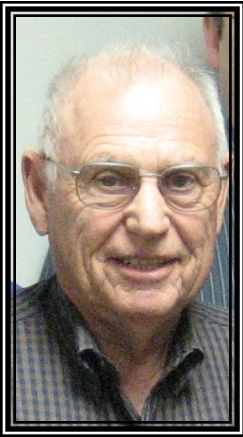
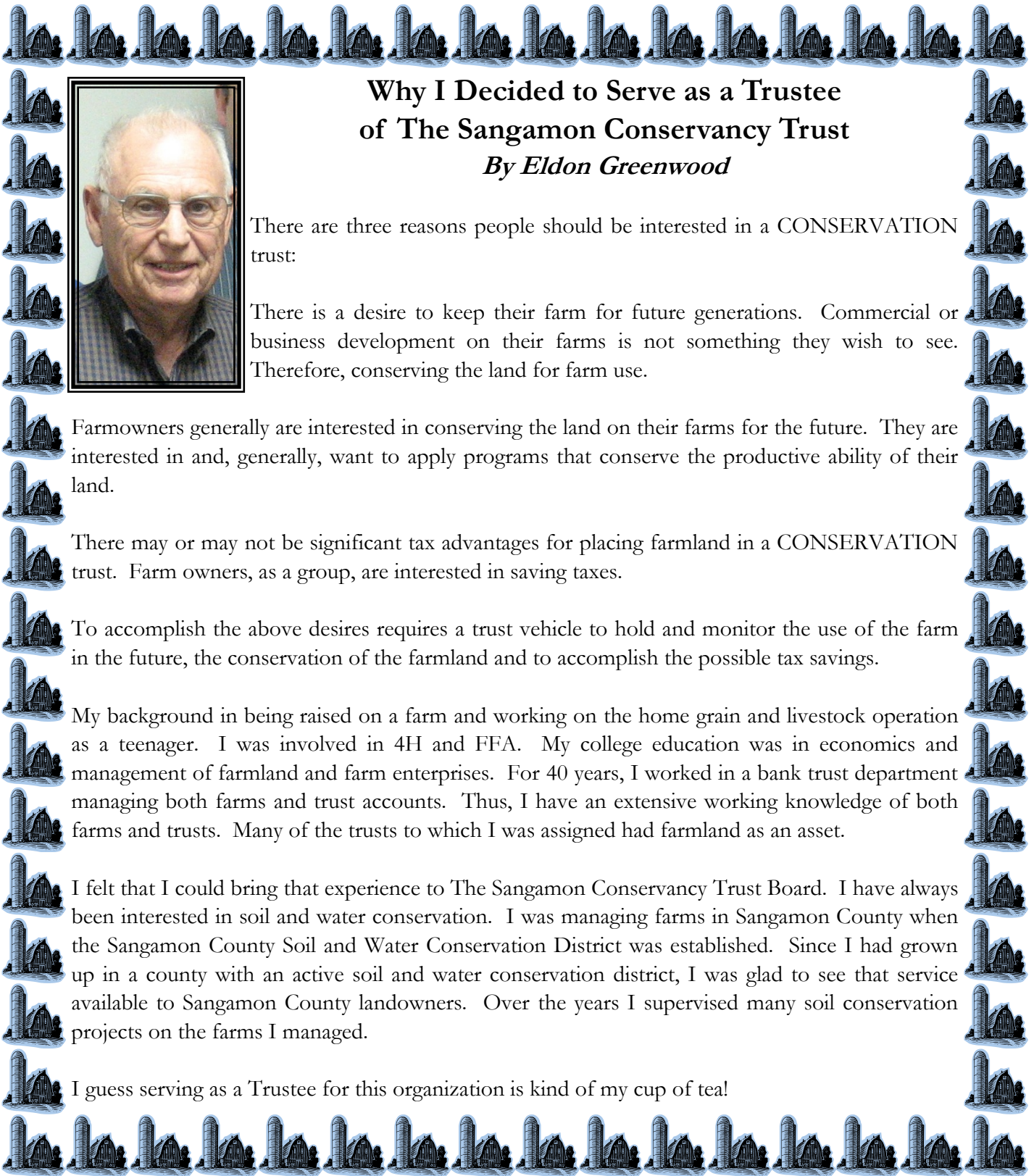


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Acres of agricultural land converted to developed land between 1982 and 2007





Why I Decided to Serve as a Trustee of The Sangamon Conservancy Trust *By Eldon Greenwood*

There are three reasons people should be interested in a CONSERVATION trust:

There is a desire to keep their farm for future generations. Commercial or business development on their farms is not something they wish to see. Therefore, conserving the land for farm use.

Farmowners generally are interested in conserving the land on their farms for the future. They are interested in and, generally, want to apply programs that conserve the productive ability of their land.


There may or may not be significant tax advantages for placing farmland in a CONSERVATION trust. Farm owners, as a group, are interested in saving taxes.

To accomplish the above desires requires a trust vehicle to hold and monitor the use of the farm in the future, the conservation of the farmland and to accomplish the possible tax savings.

My background in being raised on a farm and working on the home grain and livestock operation as a teenager. I was involved in 4H and FFA. My college education was in economics and management of farmland and farm enterprises. For 40 years, I worked in a bank trust department managing both farms and trust accounts. Thus, I have an extensive working knowledge of both farms and trusts. Many of the trusts to which I was assigned had farmland as an asset.

I felt that I could bring that experience to The Sangamon Conservancy Trust Board. I have always been interested in soil and water conservation. I was managing farms in Sangamon County when the Sangamon County Soil and Water Conservation District was established. Since I had grown up in a county with an active soil and water conservation district, I was glad to see that service available to Sangamon County landowners. Over the years I supervised many soil conservation projects on the farms I managed.

I guess serving as a Trustee for this organization is kind of my cup of tea!

 **The Sangamon Conservancy Trust**

The Sangamon Conservancy Trust
Your Partner in Conservation and Farmland Preservation

We encourage you to become a partner in our efforts to preserve farmland and conserve the natural resources of Illinois. The enclosed pre-printed envelope provides membership opportunities for you.

The Sangamon Conservancy Trust is a charitable trust under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Membership dues to this organization are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

2010 National Land Trust Census Report

Illinois

Report Shows

Strong Growth In Land Conservation

Land trusts in Illinois contributed to this success, reporting an increase of 42% in acres conserved over this period, having protected 91,524 acres.

A new report by the Land Trust Alliance shows that land conservation by non-profit land trusts across the United States is thriving, with more than 10 million acres conserved from 2005 to 2010. Land trusts in Illinois contributed to this success, reporting an increase of 42% in acres conserved over this period, having protected 91,524 acres.

“The great conservation opportunities of the next century will be on privately owned land, and conservation easements are the most effective way to protect those lands. Landowners like conservation easements because they are a refreshing alternative to government regulation: they are voluntary, local and respect private property rights. For the many people who love their land, it is the best way to ensure that it will be preserved for all time.”

Rand Wentworth, President, Land Trust Alliance



Chairman's Comments

By Bob Komnick

I recently attended an Agri-Legacy meeting in Decatur. There were several speakers on the topic of how to hand over one's farm or land to the next generation. There are many aspects to consider, especially when you have several children who are married and have children of their own.

Some may not even have any interest in remaining on the land and others may want to stay and even expand the operation. There were many points of interest dealing with legal aspects, but communication was by far the most outstanding point. You have to include in-laws, wives or husbands who are blood or not blood relatives. Get everyone involved and enlist the aid of a certified professional accountant, a banker, an attorney and a financial planner. From there you plan your goals.

Our land is a very precious commodity—black gold. It is our duty as landowners, in our lifetime, to take care of the land the best we can through the use of conservation measures and best management practices. With escalating land prices and high estate taxes, you need to make farm succession planning a very high priority. The Sangamon Conservancy Trust is one of a limited number of trusts available in Illinois to help you preserve your family farm for future generations. One of the primary goals of The Sangamon Conservancy Trust is specifically farmland preservation. This should be included in your legacy plan.

For more information about the Trust and opportunities available for preserving your farmland for the future, contact the Trust's Executive Manager Barb Mendenhall at (217) 241-6635 ext. 3 or Chairman Bob Komnick at (217) 494-2193.

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We're on the Web!
www.sangamonconservancytrust.org

Our Mission
"To foster exceptional conservation
activities for the benefit of all persons"

Member of
Land Trust Alliance
www.lta.org

One Thing Congress Agrees On: Land Conservation ***300 Representatives Co-sponsoring H.R. 1964***

Congressmen Jim Gerlach (R-PA) and Mike Thompson (D-CA) announced in February that 300 Representatives have co-sponsored H.R. 1964 to conserve America's forests, agricultural lands and open spaces—more than any other tax bill. This bill makes permanent a recently-expired tax incentive that allows modest-income landowners to receive significant tax deductions for donating conservation easements that permanently protect important natural or historic resources on their lands.

"This legislation has generated tremendous bipartisan support because the conservation easement tax incentive works," said Representative Jim Gerlach. The tax incentive gives family farmers, ranchers and other property owners more choices and creates opportunities for partnerships between non-profit organizations, federal, state and local officials. With the support of nearly three-fourths of the House, I am hopeful that conservation easements will remain an option for all property owners."

"The enhanced conservation easement incentive is a success—last year we reached a total of 47 million acres of land saved from development, a 27% jump from 2005. But it's not just about the numbers, it's about helping folks plan, conserve land and protect wildlife so our kids and grandkids can enjoy these natural treasures," said Representative Mike Thompson.

Landowners can retire the development rights on their land by donating a conservation easement to a land trust, such as The Sangamon Conservancy Trust—keeping agricultural land in productive use. H.R. 1964 will help thousands of family farmers, ranchers and forest owners afford to conserve their land, by allowing donors to deduct a larger portion of their income over a longer period of time.