



Presents an educational briefing on

## **Sustainable and Organic Agriculture in Action: USDA Programs at work on D.C. Area Farms**

**Wednesday, May 20**

**1:00 – 2:00 pm**

**1302 Longworth House Office Building**

Three mid-Atlantic farmers will show us how specific USDA programs have enhanced the sustainability of their small-to-mid-sized operations.

**Judy Gifford** has always loved cows. After working for 16 years in the public sector, she realized her dream of becoming a full-time dairy farmer. With her partner, she owns and operates St. Bridgid's Farm in Kennedyville, MD, near the headwaters of Chesapeake Bay, grazing dairy and beef cows rotationally on 62 acres. In 2000, she was awarded a grant through USDA's **Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE)** program to monitor the mass nutrient balance on her farm and develop a nutrient management plan, which she continues to follow on her farm.

**Catherine Renzi's** lifelong passion for growing food, flowers, and raising all sorts of plants and animals led her to establish Yellow Springs Farm in Chester Springs, PA in 2001. She is a popular public speaker and a prolific writer. She and her husband, Al Renzi, a microbiologist and entrepreneur, propagate, grow, and sell many species of unique and hard to find native plants. In 2008, they were awarded a grant through USDA's **Value-Added Producer Grant (VAPG)** program to assess the feasibility of producing and marketing unique aged goat cheese and related products. Goat cheese products will incorporate edible native plants and honey already produced at Yellow Springs Farm.

**Andy Andrews** is the manager of Pennypack Farm Education Center in Horsham, PA, which works to raise awareness about sustainable local food systems by offering educational programs and a community supported agriculture (CSA) demonstration project. Andy began farming in 1996 and started and managed a CSA farm on Maryland's Eastern Shore. Pennypack Farm is in the process of transitioning to USDA certified organic production. USDA's **Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)** has enabled Pennypack Farm to plant extensive cover crops, warm season grasses and flowering plants for bees and beneficial insects.

Special Thanks to our Partners:



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