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THIRD ANNUAL FUTURE OF OUR FOOD AND FARMS SUMMIT TO FEATURE FOUR OF THE NATION'S MOST INFLUENTIAL AGRICULTURAL LEADERS

PHILADELPHIA --- Register now for the third annual *Future of our Food and Farms* Summit, to be held November 29 and 30. Four Secretaries of Agriculture from New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Maryland and Delaware will introduce their views about the future of agriculture in the Mid-Atlantic region at the conference. This year's theme, "Spreading the Bounty and Safeguarding the Future" focuses on how to increase good nutrition, reduce hunger and support farming in the Mid-Atlantic region. The conference is hosted by the Farmers' Market Trust and RISA (Regional Infrastructure for Sustaining Agriculture).

"This year at the Summit, you will learn how changes in markets and upcoming legislation in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Maryland, Delaware and the U.S. will affect consumers, farmers, businesses and social service agencies," says Duane Perry, the Executive Director of the Farmers' Market Trust. "With all four Secretaries of Agriculture attending, everyone engaged in food marketing, farming and hunger prevention should be at the conference this year."

A pre-conference event -- the Hunger Congress -- will feature state and federal legislators from the region, including Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Maryland and Delaware. "The Hunger Congress will be a forum for people to ask state and federal officials about upcoming changes in

governmental policies that will affect hunger,” says John Weidman, from Philabundance and the Food Resources Alliance, a co-sponsor of the Hunger Congress.

In addition to the Hunger Congress, the *Future of our Food and Farms* Summit will offer sessions geared toward anyone interested in learning about upcoming changes facing agriculture and farming, nutrition education, food marketing and retailing, and hunger. Session topics include: the new Farm Bill, career preparation in the agriculture industry for youth, nutrition education for children, community food security, ethnic foods, sustainable agriculture and more. The inspirational film, *Homecoming ... Sometimes I am haunted by memories of red dirt and clay* will also be shown during the Summit. *Homecoming ...* is the story of African-American land loss and a chronicle of black farmers from the Civil War to the present, written and produced by Charlene Gilbert and Philadelphian Quinn Eli.

Sponsors of the Summit include: Land O’Lakes Foundation, Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, Pennsylvania Nutrition Education Network, and Maryland Department of Agriculture. Pennsylvania State Cooperative Extension and College of Agricultural Sciences is a contributor.

The Farmers’ Market Trust/RISA is a nonprofit organization located in Philadelphia. The Farmers’ Market Trusts’ mission is to increase the availability of fresh foods in underserved communities and to improve the connection between urban and agricultural communities. RISA is dedicated to supporting and promoting the food and agriculture system in the Mid-Atlantic region.

The Third Annual Future of our Food and Farms Summit will be held November 29 to November 30 at the Renaissance Hotel, Philadelphia International Airport. For more information on the Summit, visit www.foodfarms.org. Registration is \$125 per person; early registration (before Nov. 1) is \$105. A special one-day rate of \$75 is available. For registration information contact Meredith Stone at the Farmers’ Market Trust, (215) 568-0830 x10, or fmtrust@libertynet.org