

## **New Guides to Local Farm and Forest Products from the Delaware Highlands Conservancy**

**The Delaware Highlands Conservancy, a local nonprofit working with landowners and communities to protect the natural heritage and quality of life of the Upper Delaware River region, has recently expanded the Shop Local Save Land initiative.** The initiative, which includes hard copy guides and a searchable website, encourages consumers to connect to the local farm and forest product providers of the Upper Delaware River region and promotes a sustainable local economy. **In summer 2012, the Conservancy released new editions of the *Shop Local Save Land Guide to Farms and Farm Markets* and the *Shop Local Save Land Guide to Wood Products, Professionals and Resources*.** The Conservancy publishes these guides as an extension of the award-winning *Shop Local Save Land* initiative ([www.ShopLocalSaveLand.com](http://www.ShopLocalSaveLand.com)), which began in 2008.

The Guides are easy-to-use, easy-to-carry, one-stop resources for finding local businesses and providers in the Upper Delaware River region. **For the *Guide to Farms and Farm Markets*, this means finding fresh, healthy, local foods, including produce, dairy, eggs, fresh baked goods, meats, and more. For seasonal gift-giving, find farms selling jams and jellies, handmade crafts and furniture, fibers and yarns, flowers and plants, and local honey. The whole community benefits when agricultural lands stay agricultural lands. Study after study shows that eating locally grown foods means eating healthier.** Hills of rolling farmlands add to the scenic beauty of the Upper Delaware River region and bring visitors here who support not only locally produced farm products, but other local businesses as well. If consumers support local farms and farm products, farmers have the economic resources they need to maintain their farmlands as agricultural lands.

**Similarly, the *Shop Local Save Land Guide to Wood Products, Professionals and Resources* allows consumers to find local sources for building, decorating, and heating their homes.** It creates a well-connected network of local wood products providers, forestry professionals, conservation organizations, and the general public to foster the sustainability of healthy and economically productive forestlands. Our forests are important economic drivers for our region and good sources of local jobs. The healthy forests of our region protect vital drinking water sources for us and for everyone downstream—the Upper Delaware River Watershed provides water to over 15 million people. **Supporting local forest products businesses means supporting our locally sustainable forest economy, and it means the ability to sustain the forestlands we cherish.** Supporting these local businesses assures that our valuable forests are here for us now and will be here for future generations.

Complimentary copies of the *Guides* are available throughout the area including at many fine businesses, visitors' centers, conservation districts, libraries, the Conservancy's offices in PA and NY, and others. **The companion website, [www.ShopLocalSaveLand.com](http://www.ShopLocalSaveLand.com), provides searchable listings of all of the providers found in the guides as well as interesting articles, upcoming events in the area, and a tool to design your own driving tour of farm and forest providers in the area.**

At the core of the Conservancy's work is the idea that people are part of the land—we are connected to it and it sustains us. Healthy land and water means healthy people. Healthy working lands mean sustainable economies. We encourage support of all our locally sustainable economies--farm, forest,

and ecotourism--because vibrant clean local economies mean our lands and waters will be healthier for everyone, now and for the long term. For more information about the Delaware Highlands Conservancy, visit [www.DelawareHighlands.org](http://www.DelawareHighlands.org), email [info@delawarehighlands.org](mailto:info@delawarehighlands.org) or call 570-226-3164 or 845-583-1010.

The *Guides* are produced in conjunction with WDesign and Heron's Eye Communication, and with generous support from area businesses and organizations including The Settlers Inn, Pocono Mountains Visitors Bureau, Hotel Fauchere, A.M. Skier Insurance, the Monroe County Open Space Program, the Pike County Scenic Rural Character Preservation Program (SRCP), the Pike County Conservation District, the Pike County Agricultural Land Preservation Program, PA DCNR, and the U.S. Forest Service at Grey Towers.