

Orrell, Vern - Richmond, VA

From: Linda Glass [linda.glass@shootingstaralpacas.com]
Sent: Monday, October 31, 2005 10:34 AM
To: Orrell, Vern - Richmond, VA
Subject: Small farm liability

Dear Mr. Orrell -

I understand there will be a USDA 2007 Farm Bill Forum conducted in Charlottesville, Virginia on November 1, 2005.

Unfortunately I will be unable to attend the Forum. I would however like to express my concerns over the biggest hurdle I face today.

I am a professional in the business industry who is trying to start-up a small fiber farm in Fauquier County, Virginia. I would love to have girl scout troops and boy scout troops out to learn about the fiber industry. I also would like to do farm tours for home-schooled children as well as public school children. I am in the processes of setting up a small farm store for the parents and families who are interested in purchasing farm products such as handspun wool and spinning supplies.

Because of my profession, I understand the necessity of having liability insurance in this day and age. I, however, have not been able to secure a source for liability insurance once I open my farm store and will hopefully be exchanging money.

I can see why farming "for profit" is so difficult. Any creative ways of using a farm other than the bare bones basics, lead to major barriers whether it be insurance, financing or risk management.

We pay our insurance premiums to cover people who choose to build there homes in flood plains but we don't do much to help those trying to making a living doing what this country was once based on. No wonder so many farmers leave farming.

Thank you,
Linda Glass
Shooting Star Farm
Fauquier County, VA