



*Growing food in our community since 1947*

## HOPE FOR OUR FUTURE

Governor Jane Hull has signed legislation giving our Farm a ten-year reprieve from the taking of water we could use for an Assured Water Supply. Now, instead of losing four percent of our AWS each year, action is deferred for ten years, after which an accumulated forty-percent is taken. While hoping for a "permanent deferral", we are thankful for the time this legislation allows to make some very important decisions regarding the future of Young's Family Farm. We wish to say a big THANK YOU for the interest and effort you have given. Without the many letters and phone calls I doubt if we would have been given the reprieve. It did not come easily and consumed much time and energy over the last two years. The support from our friends and customers throughout the state has been overwhelming!

Now we must find a long-term solution. Rita Pearson, Director of The Arizona Department of Water Resources has suggested the selling of the "development rights" of our Farm as one way to ensure our farm remains a farm forever. Richard Sims, a board member of the Central Arizona Land Trust (CALT) and also the Director of the Sharlot Hall Museum in Prescott, has said he would like to see a statewide effort to try to save the Young's Family Farm from subdivision, much like the effort made to save the San Rafael Ranch in Santa Cruz County near the Mexican border. In that case, State Heritage Funds were used to buy the "development rights" of a ranch for the first time and saved one of the state's most prominent grasslands from being converted to houses.

Susan Adams, Director of the Leadership Center of Yavapai College in Prescott and a Board Member of CALT has helped us understand what a "Purchase of Development Rights" (PDR) or "Purchase of an Agricultural Conservation Easement" (PACE) would mean for our Family Farm. After reviewing details of such contracts used in Colorado, we think Rita Pearson's suggestion would be a viable long-term solution. The enclosed proposal for "Purchase of Development Rights" of Young's Family Farm is based on written offers we have received over the last several years.

Now that we have some time, we are eager to explore any ideas of how to "protect the rich top soil of this small valley from ever being covered with asphalt and houses"! Any questions or ideas could be directed to:

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Again, THANK YOU very much for your interest and efforts on our behalf.