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**Farm/Estate Transition and Conservation Easement Workshop on September 23**

**Madison, GA, September 1, 2010** – For many families in Morgan County, the farm is the family heritage. The transfer of the farming enterprise from one generation to the next or from one owner to the next can be complicated, time consuming, and emotional. But there are ways to organize the process of decision-making that protects farm productivity and preserves family relationships.

It is well known that conservation easements have been used for decades to protect agricultural land, but it is less well known that conservation easements can also protect a family's assets in the farm/estate transition process. A conservation easement is a voluntary legal agreement between the landowner and a qualified holder of conservation easements that permanently restricts certain uses on the land while allowing the landowner to retain ownership and use of the land.

Through a grant from the USDA Risk Management Agency, the Rolling Hills RC&D and the Madison-Morgan Conservancy are joining forces to present information on this farm/estate transition process on September 23, 2010, at Burge Plantation, from 8:30am – 3pm. The cost is \$15, and lunch will be provided.

Presenters will include Katherine Eddins and Justin Park from the GA Land Trust who will present information on conservation easements; Allen H. Olson, Attorney at Law who will present information on farm/estate transition; and Kristina Sorensen of the GA Land Conservation Program who will present information on the GA State Tax Credit for conservation easements.

For more information about the workshop, please visit [http://mmcgeorgia.org/Educational\\_Forums/](http://mmcgeorgia.org/Educational_Forums/) or contact Christine McCauley, 706-342-9252. To register for the workshop, please send a check for \$15 to the Madison-Morgan Conservancy, P.O. Box 752.