

# FSCAP Certified Steward

Ron Albaugh  
Peace and Plenty Farm



Ron and Bonnie Albaugh run Peace and Plenty Farm in Rocky Ridge, MD, a 100 acre farm with 79 cropped acres: on average, 60% soybeans, 20% small grain, and 20% hay. This Frederick County farm – which has been in the family since 1959 – also serves as a site for education; tours of the land are given to both high school and college level students, to assist with their agricultural and environmental instruction. Ron is an instructor of biology and environmental science – and coordinator of the Coastal Studies Program – at Hood College. Owens Creek, which runs through the farm, and a 0.6 acre farm pond on the property have been used for aquatic research by Hood undergraduates. Presently, two graduate level experiments are being conducted on the farm: a comparison of pollinated vs. non-pollinated soybean yields and a study of insect diversity pre- and post-clear cutting in a seven acre wildlife habitat located on the farm. (The historic Loys Station Covered Bridge is also situated adjacent to the property.) The Albaughs aim to promote sustainable agriculture and protect family farms. To maximize water and air quality, soil conservation, and wildlife habitat, many best management practices are utilized on this farm, including: cover crops, critical area planting, riparian buffers in the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP), diversions, grassed waterways, stream protection, contour farming, crop residue management, crop rotation, nutrient management, and Integrated Pest Management.

Soybeans and small grain are sold immediately after harvest, but hay and straw from Peace and Plenty Farm can be bought directly; for more information, please email [albaugh@hood.edu](mailto:albaugh@hood.edu).

