Family Farms: Get Big Or Leave Home!

Jennie Schmidt, MS, RD
Schmidt Farms, Inc.
Who Am I? Farmer, Dietitian, Promoter of Food & Farming

- 2011 America’s Farm Mom of the Year
- CommonGround Volunteer
- Board Member
  - VP, Maryland Grain Producers
  - US Wheat Foods Council
  - Past Chair, Maryland Farm Bureau Specialty Crops
  - Past Pres, Maryland Grape Growers Assoc.
Schmidt Farms Inc.
3rd Generation in USA
2000 Acres in Sudlersville, MD

- Corn (biotech & conventional; formerly certified organic)
- Soybeans (food, feed & seed)
  - Wheat (feed & seed)
  - Barley (seed)
- 150 acres tomatoes
- 160 acres fresh market green beans
  - 80 acres lima beans
  - 250 acres of hay
  - 22 acres winegrapes
- Custom Hire Vineyard Mgt Co.

Our Farm Goal =

to maximize value per acre producing safe, high quality foods, while preserving and improving our soils (CQI) and sustaining the family farm for the next generation
Schmidt Family Tree

Oscar -> Christa

Oscar: No heirs

Christa: 3 heirs, chose buy out

Walter: 2 heirs on farm

Hans: Zach, Katrina

Alan: Jacob, Tyler
• Est 2009
• Planted 10-15 ac/yr
• Expanded to 5 MD & 2 DE counties.
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wineries</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>65</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Grape Acres</td>
<td>212</td>
<td>431</td>
<td>535</td>
<td>637</td>
<td>850+</td>
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Family Farms

Are:
A Business
A Profession
A Legacy

Size vs Diversity
Takes both to sustain food production and allow the next generation to stay on the farm.
Thank You!

Jennie Schmidt, MS, RD
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