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**The American Chestnut Foundation purchases farm for use in
chestnut restoration program**

Meadowview, VA – The American Chestnut Foundation (TACF) recently completed a purchase of 25 acres of farmland that will offer additional space for its national breeding program. The nearly 25-year-old program is working to breed a blight-resistant American chestnut and restore the tree to its native eastern forests.

The Bryan Research Farm, named for the property's original owners, is a 100-year-old farm that is mainly comprised of pastureland and is located across from TACF's Glenn C. Price Research Farm. This acquisition brings TACF's land holdings in the Meadowview area to nearly 160 acres on which more than 25,000 chestnut trees are grown.

TACF's President and CEO Marshal Case said, "This purchase enables us to continue our research into breeding blight resistant American chestnuts and gives us the space we need to continue planting orchards which will be used for research purposes. Also, this is a terrific area for growing chestnut so we are very pleased to add on to our current research facility here in Meadowview."

Dr. Bob Paris, Research Geneticist at TACF's Meadowview Research Farms says of the purchase, "I feel that the addition of the new farm has been a very positive step that helps lay the foundation for a strong, rewarding future for TACF research. Breeding chestnut trees is exciting work, but it takes a considerable amount of land resources to properly carry out the program. This signifies our long-term commitment to, and confidence in, TACF's initial project of developing blight-resistant American chestnut trees and restoring them to their native forests. The acquisition also allows for growth by expanding our exploration of additional promising research as opportunities are presented."

The American Chestnut Foundation is a non-profit organization with nearly 6,000 members nationally and internationally and chapters in 14 states including Virginia. For more information about the Foundation or the American chestnut please visit our website at www.acf.org or call 1-802-447-0110.