Innisfree

Founded in 1971 as a life sharing community for adults with intellectual disabilities, Innisfree Village is dedicated to providing a lifesharing home and work environment in an atmosphere of beauty, warmth, and respectfulness where all community members are valued, and all are encouraged to explore and contribute to a meaningful and challenging life.
For nearly fifty years prior to being part of Innisfree Village, the property had once been a tobacco farm, and after that an orchard. When Innisfree Farm first began the original farmer had first let livestock roam on a continuous system.

When current farm manager Nich Traverse’s father took over the farming, he began applying many conservation practices, and believed that Innisfree needed to give back to the land.
Now home to one of the largest Stream Mitigation Banks in the state, Innisfree has protected over 500 acres of wildlife habitat and riparian ecosystems while greatly improving overall water quality on the property.

A conservation easement held by the Virginia Outdoors Foundation has been recorded on the property and this easement along with the Stream Mitigation Bank has generated 17,000 stream credits to date helping to sustain the Innisfree Village community.
Over 7 miles of livestock exclusion fencing have been installed throughout the property, 38 hydrants insure adequate, clean water for all livestock.

Key Line plowing across areas of the farm with heavy compaction from prior farming operations have allowed for better drainage and infiltration.

The planting of 11 acres of tillage radishes on critical slope areas have addressed pasture areas with serious erosion concerns.
200 acres of pasture are managed successfully with rotational grazing eliminating the need for outside fertilizer and nutrients being brought onto the farm.

35 brood cows, 400 chickens and 35 sheep are moved throughout the system every 1 to 4 days to avoid unnecessary pressure on the pastures.

Farm manager Nich Traverse consistently monitors herd numbers across the farm to assure adequate forage and to allow pastures to recoup.
Nearly 5,000 native tree and shrub species have been planted within 75 foot buffer areas along stream banks throughout the farm providing critical wildlife habitat and protection for the waterways.
“Innisfree shall promote efforts in the stewardship of the land to acknowledge the reciprocal relationship between human health and the natural environment” — from the Innisfree mission statement