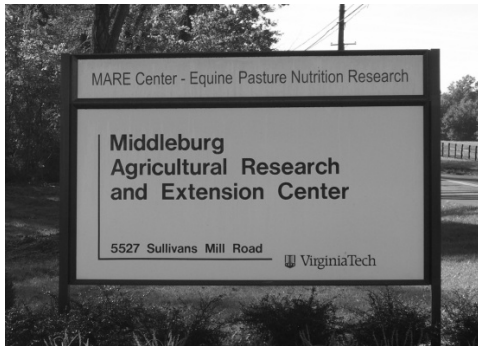




VirginiaTech



College of Agriculture
and Life Sciences

MARE Center
5527 Sullivans Mill Road
Middleburg, Virginia 20117
540/687-3521 ext.22 Fax: 540/687-5362
E-mail: MAREC@vt.edu
www.vaes.vt.edu/middleburg

November 24, 2008

Dear Friend of the MARE Center,

As you may know, part of our mission is to provide to the people of the Commonwealth graduate and community education that will help them gain a better understanding of such topics as equine health care and pasture management. Accomplishing our mission would not be possible without this wonderful facility and acreage to conduct research and provide these services. This year we would like to ask for your continued support as we look toward upgrading our facilities to make them more efficient. We will focus on two particular areas in the coming year, the activities building and parking areas.

Our current activities building is not only used for maintenance, but also serves many of our educational and research needs, holding numerous Extension programs and community events year round. However, we do not have sufficient insulation in the building to effectively keep it warm in the winter and cool in the summer. This creates a major issue, particularly during cold weather when we use large industrial blowers, which are very noisy, to heat the building. If you have attended an event during the winter months, you are aware that the noise is a hindrance to our program participants. Insulating the building would reduce the need for using industrial blowers during events and help make us more energy efficient.

Ironically, the parking area in need of repair is where our original activities building once stood. Currently, cracks in the foundation and lack of curbs make it unsafe for parking and for visitors getting in and out of their vehicles. In order to create a safe space for parking, we will convert the area to gravel and add curbing. At the same time, we will expand the area to provide additional parking spaces for our visitors and event participants.

Your support will help us become more energy efficient and improve the safety of our visitors. This is especially important as we have seen an increase in program participation in the past year. The upkeep of the center's facilities is paramount to the success of these programs.

Thank you for your support of the MARE Center.

Sincerely,

Shea Porr,
Superintendent for the MARE Center

SP/dm