



# *The McCroskey Agrarian*

## A Circular for the McCroskey Township

March 17, 2024 (St Patrick's Day)

#1 Premier Issue

### **Introducing The McCroskey Territorial Agrarian Society**

Agrarian societies have a long and honorable history. Since the 19th Century, they have been created mainly to protect the interests of small farmers and to promote interest in small-scale farming and rural-based cottage industries.

According to the various Homestead Acts, a "small farmer" would be any land-owner who lives on 160 acres or less.

In America, agrarian societies often morphed into other organizations such as the Grange movement and various producer cooperatives. While many national and regional organizations exist to assist large-scale farming and agribusiness, locally-based agrarian societies are few, except for groups tailored to niche markets.

Agrarian societies have also existed as advocacies to protect the property rights of small farmers and cottage industries which often become the victims of hostile acquisition by large farms, urban zoning regulations, and adverse lending practices of unfriendly banks.

There is a need in Benewah County for agrarian societies which will help protect against zoning and building codes with an urban bias. Local government officials often use such powers to restrict property owners from making improvements to their property in a

demand to create a "suburban" profile. Like "tax farmers," they impose needless regulations which inflate property values that result in higher taxes and increased government spending on useless public works projects. They frequently promote tract housing which attracts the influx of migrants who do not share the values of the citizens of a county.

***The McCroskey Agrarian*** is a proposed publication for the McCroskey area township. If you live within six miles to the north of the McCroskey State Park, you are automatically a free subscriber. The publication will begin as a simple newsletter sent to your mailbox containing the summary of articles and resources in each new issue. The full edition will be published on-line at the [savebenewahcounty.com](http://savebenewahcounty.com) website.

The McCroskey Territorial Agrarian Society is an unincorporated association organized under the laws of the State of Idaho to promote small-scale farming, home-based industries, and educationally-related endeavors in our township area. It is self-funded and does not have a common purse.

Land-use regulations are often controversial and "political." Historically, agrarian societies were an outgrowth of American populism and tended to favor the Democratic Party as it used to be. But the "McCrosky Agrarians" pledge to use the society in a non-partisan way, and to let its constituents form their own affiliations as they see fit.

This chapter is for those living on the Idaho side of the McCroskey State Park which includes domiciles on the "Farmington Mail Route,"

Desmet Road, King Valley Road, Old Mill Road,  
Hangman Creek Road and tributary roadways.

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### **Tell Us Your Winter Story**

I planted an 1/8th acre of carrots late last summer giving them enough time to mature before the first hard freeze. I've been harvesting them over the winter for freshness. The freezing and thawing pushed most of them out of the ground and got mushy. But there were plenty to eat and easy to pick. Who needs that many carrots anyway?

If you have something to share, email me at [jwstivers1@gmail.com](mailto:jwstivers1@gmail.com).

**Next issue:** Spring Lambing, Cattle Prices and Wildfire Hazards

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### **Resources**

*Acres, USA* is a friendly publication for small farmers which has been publishing monthly since the 1970s. They publish on-line here:

[acresusa.com](http://acresusa.com)

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Currently, James Stivers, an area resident for over 25 years, is the charter member, organizer, and editor for *The McCroskey Agrarian*. You are invited to communicate with him to offer input for the newsletter or to organize on-line discussion groups.

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