JOIN OLLI for a tour of the SMITHSONIAN SWISS VILLAGE

Tuesday, May 21 at 10am 152 Harrison Ave, Newport
$55.00 per member Limit of 20 Members

SMITHSONIAN & SVF BIODIVERSITY PRESERVATION PROJECT

Our Mission

The Smithsonian & SVF Biodiversity Preservation Project, with assistance from Tufts Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine, cryopreserves germplasm (semen and embryos) from rare and endangered breeds of food and fiber livestock. Collecting 200 embryos and 3,000 straws of semen per breed, SVF will be able to reawaken a breed, with its full genetic diversity, within one generation. This library of frozen material is vital to the protection of the world’s food supply.

As part of the collaboration, a bio-repository and cryo-preservation laboratory will be constructed at SCBJ in Front Royal, VA, creating a world-class biodiversity preservation program.

If you are interested in buying, selling or leasing animals to help us in this important mission, please call 401.846.8670 or email sarah@svffoundation.org.

A Bridge to the Future for Heritage Breeds

Globally we are losing one breed of livestock a month, according to the Food and Agriculture Organization. Rare or heritage breeds of livestock carry valuable and irreplaceable traits, such as resistance to disease and parasites, heat tolerance, mothering ability, forage utilization, and unique flavor and texture qualities.

A particular breed that now dominates the marketplace may find its future jeopardized for any number of reasons. For instance, highly inbred and genetically uniform breeds, which dominate the industry, could be decimated by a serious infectious disease. Recall the Irish potato famine: a single variety of potato, which sustained a population, was devastated by blight.