

# The York County Ag Preservation Program

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717-840-7400 / Monday-Friday 8:00 am to 4:30 pm



The York County Agricultural Land Preservation Board (YCALPB) is pleased to announce that from 1990 until now, **two-hundred and seventy farms covering 40,833 acres have been preserved!!!** This includes farms preserved through easement purchase or easement donation. These farms represent working lands across the county which produce field crops, milk, fruits, berries, vegetables, Christmas trees, nursery stock, timber, and a variety of livestock. On behalf of the County of York and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, we thank the farm families who have made this forever commitment.

Our office reports the selection of six farms on 512 acres for the 2015 preservation activity. **This year, 46 applications, covering 4,391 acres, were received for easement consideration.** An additional 19 program inquiries on 1,063 acres was also received. **Clearly, York County landowners are interested in farmland preservation.** Preservation began in York County in 1990 with the passage of Act 149, the Farmland Preservation Act, amending the Ag Security Area Law, Act 43, allowing County governments to preserve farmland through the purchase of agricultural conservation easements (ACE). **Think of ACE's as the right to say no to development through a deed restriction.** Zoning may not change that land use as ACE's are perpetual, or forever. Protecting this farmland has allowed us to create many farming neighborhoods across the County devoted entirely to commercial agricultural production.

Farmers in these regions have confidence their farm operations may operate with little to no conflicting uses next door and their farm capital improvements are safe investments. Finally, **farmers can plan for the next generation of farmers.** How we use our land affects all of us. Land uses influence population distribution, where people live, work, play, shop, and go to school. So naturally real estate taxes, school taxes, and the cost of public services will follow the human footprint across the landscape. Careful and thoughtful land use planning is critical to the best use of our limited lands and is key to communities remaining livable, enjoyable, and affordable for all York residents. As we plan our future living, working and play space, we must not overlook planning for the lands which feed us.

**The YCALPB will host a public meeting for landowners interested in preserving their farms,** Thursday, November 19, 2015, 7:30 PM, Room 1 of the County Annex Building. The meeting will discuss the County's easement purchase and easement donation program. To reserve a seat or update your application for 2016 call (717) 840-7400.

We **welcome new board member, Ms. J. Kenetha Hansen,** of York. Ms. Hansen was appointed recently to a three year term as Representing Citizens. We look forward to her service on the YCALPB. Ms. Hansen currently serves as Vice President, Economic Development for the Economic Development Alliance. She graduated with a Bachelors of Arts in Political Science from Dickinson College.



Interested land and farm workers may contact the agency at (717) 840-7400, or go to [www.YorkCountyPA.gov](http://www.YorkCountyPA.gov). Useful Links and a Preservation Map now show all preserved farms within the county. See if any preserved farms are near you. The York County Ag Land Preservation Program continues to rank third in the state and ninth in the Nation for acres of farmland preserved. YCALPB Office Hours are 8 AM to 4:30 PM Monday through Friday. We are located in the County Annex Building at 118 Pleasant Acres Road, York, PA 17402.