

## The York County Ag Preservation Program

Patty McCandless, Program Director

118 Pleasant Acres Road, Suite F

York PA 17402

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



The York County Agricultural Land Preservation Board is pleased to announce the totals of their ag land preservation efforts since 1990. Program totals as of August 10, 2017, including farms preserved through easement purchase or easement donation, total 281 farms covering 41,851 acres! 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, thank you to the families who have made this commitment to preserve their family farm, "Forever and a day".

So far in 2017, The York County Agricultural Land Preservation Board received 44 applications totaling 4,493 acres. Complete and qualifying applications are considered on a year-round basis. So far this year, the YCALPB has selected 4 farms on 748 acres for easement purchase. Of the 44 total applications, 32 applications, on 3,310 acres, were found to be complete and qualified for our program. In order to qualify for land preservation, a farm must be enrolled in an Agricultural Security Area, it must be comprised of 50% lands in Soil Classes I – IV which are used for commercial agricultural production. A farm must also generate on average \$10,000 of gross farm income for three years, and finally have a current conservation plan that is at least 50% implemented. The easement purchase program also has a 50 acre minimum, or, 10 acre minimum if the applying property lies adjacent to a previously preserved farm.

Funding for land preservation efforts comes from sources such as; Clean & Green penalties, York General Fund, Marcellus Shale funds, Growing Greener fund and state and federal sources. Preservation through easement purchase may only occur when easement funds have been allocated and certified by a County to the State. In December, York County Commissioner's approved \$293,271 for the YCALPB preservation use. In February, The Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture's Bureau of Farmland Preservation allotted \$1,431,775, bringing our total to \$1,725,046, for the county, available for Agricultural Land Preservation.



The York County Agricultural Land Preservation Board welcomes new Board Member James "Gus" Parlett of Airville, PA. Gus is a Supervisor for Lower Chanceford Township and also a full time farmer. We look forward to working with Gus and our County's Ag Land Preservation efforts. A sincere thank you goes out to Alan Taylor who served for three years on the County Ag Land Preserve Board. Alan owns and operates a dairy farm in Lower Chanceford Township and serves Lower Chanceford Township also as Supervisor.

Landowners interested in preserving their farmland may contact the agency at (717) 840-7400, or find our information at [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.

**Save the date - Tuesday, December 12, 2017, 7:00 – 9:00 pm**

Public Farmland Preservation Meeting

Understand the Eligibility Requirements and Apply to Preserve Your Family Farm

COUNTY ANNEX BUILDING

118 Pleasant Acres Road Suite F

York PA 17402