

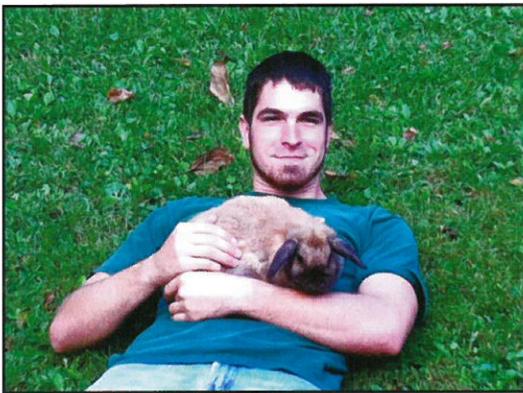
The York County Ag Preservation Program

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



The York County Ag Land Preservation Board and staff **welcomed new employee Eric Naylor** (pictured, below left) to the Ag Land Preservation Office last November as our **Farmland Preservation Technician**. Eric has a Bachelor of Science in Geography (GIS major) from Shippensburg University. He will assist the agency to qualify and rank easement applications, as well as map tracts enrolled in Ag Security Area and help preserve farms. He maintains not only the YCALPB data layers, but also sends regular updates to the York County Planning Commission (YCPC) for the ag layers their office manages and provides to agencies and municipalities.



Following graduation, Eric interned with the YCPC on mapping projects involving land cover, FNLT, and TMDL workgroups among others. He is a 2009 graduate of Dover High and graduated with a Technology Certificate. His hobbies include; building picnic tables, benches, swings and working on cars - especially his 1968 Chevy truck. Eric swam on the Shippensburg University swim team from 2009 to 2013, and currently is the assistant Swim Coach at York College of PA. Eric also works part time for Geo-Technology Associates as a draftsman.

The County of York, acting through the YCALPB, preserved their second **conservation easement donation** last December. Working with **Paul J. Solomon**, the YCALPB processed the conservation easement of 21.182 acres, which includes; woodlands, an unnamed tributary of the Little Falls creek, a pond, grasslands, wildlife habitat area, and a beautifully restored 1850 barn. The farm is in close proximity to several other conservation easements protected by the YCALPB and the Farm & Natural Lands Trust. In January, the **York County Board of Commissioner's approved an easement allocation of \$113,776** for the purchase of 2014 ag conservation easements. Thank you to both Paul Solomon and the York County Commissioners.

We continue to apply for federal funding through the USDA- Federal Farm Bill "Farm & Ranch Land Protection Program" (FRPP) and can now seek additional matching funding due to the passage of the **new Farm Bill**.

A reminder - due to legislative changes from 2013 - staff will now be visiting preserved farms once every two years, instead of annually. However, **farms with easement concerns, will still receive an annual visit**. Also, the certified letter announcing a farm visit, is no longer required. **Landowners wishing to preserve their farmland should contact us** (717) 840-7400 or visit York County's website (www.YorkCountyPA.gov) for more details. The website allows users to access easement application and program literature, general ag facts, historical and development trends, statistics, and valuable links to other conservation partners and resources. A new ag preservation map has been added to our website to show all preserved farms within the county. Look to see if any preserved tracts are in your neighborhood.

The YCALPB has preserved 250 farms, covering 38,961 acres since 1989. **The York County Ag Land Preservation Program continues to rank third in the state and 9th in the Nation** for acres of farmland preserved.