

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

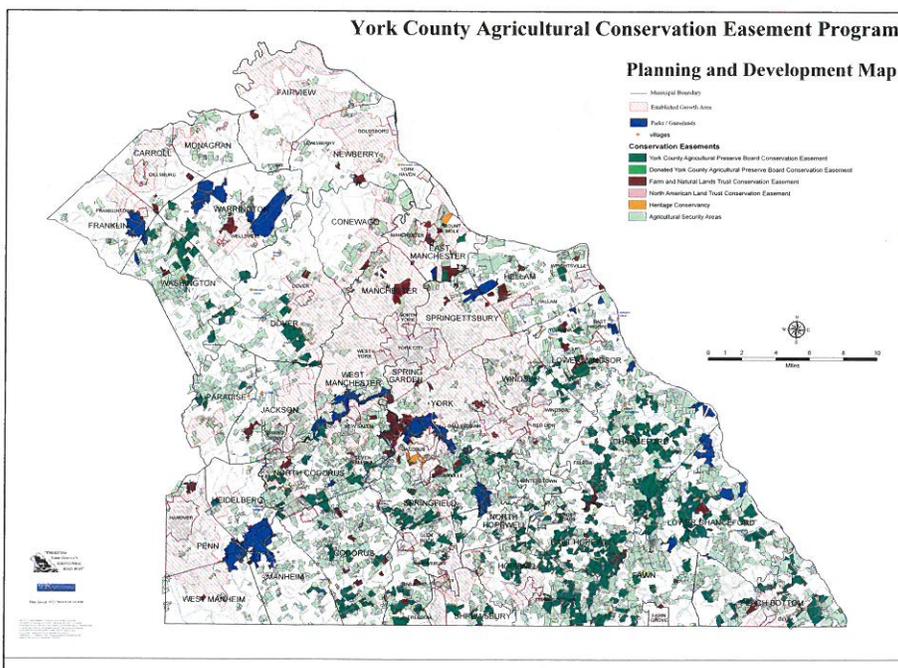


The York County Agricultural Land Preservation Office places great importance on planning for agriculture. **One designation critical to land preservation are lands enrolled in Ag Security Areas.** These are lands devoted to agricultural uses and protected from ordinance by their municipality that would unreasonably restrict normal farming practices. YCALPB staff are currently working on updating our Ag Security information for every municipality within the county. **There are over 4,400 Ag Security tracts county-wide,** and we will be reaching out to municipalities for their help, support, and input in order to complete this project.

The YCALPB recently selected 12 easement applications for farmland preservation. We've reviewed 58 applications, covering 5,050 acres of productive farmlands, during the first quarter of 2014. **Of the 58 applications, 12 scored high enough to warrant an appraisal** to determine their agricultural conservation easement value. The YCALPB will offer each landowner 90% of the easement value and, if owners accept, their easement application will be submitted for State Board review and approval. **Preservation is a permanent deed restriction and these restrictions remain in place forever, transferring from one owner to the next, ensuring the farm will be used primarily for agricultural production.**

The YCALPB continues to apply for federal funding through the USDA- Federal Farm Bill. With the recent passage of the 2014 Farm Bill, County Preservation offices may seek additional federal dollars from their ACE Program to preserve additional farms. A reminder that legislative changes in 2013 now allow preserved farms to be visited every other year. Easements which used federal funding or with easement concerns will receive an annual visit.

The County of York, acting through the YCALPB, also operates an easement donation program. To date, two farms have been preserved through a bargain sale easement donation to the County of York. **The requirements are far less stringent than the State regulated program and agricultural production is not required.**



A recent amendment to the County's Easement Donation Program now requires a refundable fee with the submission of an application to the County of York Easement Donation Program.

Landowners interested in preserving their farmland may contact the agency at (717) 840-7400 or go to YorkCountyPA.gov. Useful Links and a **Preservation Map** now show all preserved farms within the county. The YCALPB has preserved 255 farms, covering 39,145 acres since program inception in 1989. The York County Ag Land Preservation Program continues to rank third in the state and ninth in the Nation for acres of farmland preserved.