

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 through January 1, 2015, two-hundred and sixty-five farms covering 40,094 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.

So far in 2015, the YCALPB Board has received 43 applications totaling 3,688 acres. **So far this year, the YCALPB has selected six farms on 504 acres for easement purchase.** Of the 43 total applications, 25 applications 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; be comprised of 50% lands in Soil Classes I – IV utilized for commercial ag. production; must also generate \$10,000 of gross farm income for a three year average and have a current conservation plan that is 50% implemented. The easement purchase program also has a 50 acre minimum or, if adjacent to a previously preserved farm, a 10 acre minimum.



Since 2012, the YCALPB has been offering an **Easement Donation Program** which allows landowners to have a say in easement provision, such as deciding where future buildings are to be situated and what types of buildings may be built. This option results in a conservation easement that is tailored to the landowners individual needs and wants. So far, the YCALPB has received four easement donations, one in York Township, two in Warrington Township, and one in Shrewsbury Township. This program results in tax incentives for the donation, rather than receiving a check at settlement. For more information on the Donation Program, call us. It's a great way to leave a lasting legacy on York County Agriculture!

Funding for land preservation efforts comes from sources such as Clean & Green penalties, York General Fund, Marcellus Shale funds, Growing Greener funds, and state & 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 Commissioners approved \$164,875 for the YCALPB preservation use. In February, The Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture's Bureau of Farmland Preservation allotted \$1,117,557, bringing our county total to \$1,282,432 available for Agricultural Land Preservation.

The YCALPB welcomes new chairwoman, Kristina Wilt of New Park and board member, John Eaton of Airville. Kristi has been serving on our board for many years. Mr. Eaton will be representing citizens. He is a graduate of Penn State University with a major in Agricultural Business Management. He has 23 years of Agricultural lending experience, and currently operates a sheep farm in Airville.

Interested land and farmowners may contact the agency at (717) 840-7400, or go to 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.