

**YORK COUNTY AGRICULTURAL LAND PRESERVATION BOARD**  
**118 PLEASANT ACRES ROAD, SUITE F, YORK PA 17402**  
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Happenings in The County Ag Land Preserve Office - Winter 2013

The York County Ag Land Preserve Office welcomed new Board member Kristi Wilt to the County Ag Land Preserve Board for a three-year term, beginning October 2012. Kristi's grandparents, R. Wiley & Marion McElwain, preserved their family farm in Hopewell Township in 1992. Kristi is a Lancaster County DHIA technician working in south central PA. She works with her husband and son on their crop farm in Glen Rock raising steers and dairy replacement heifers. She has served for the past 12 years as the Leader of the Milk and Money 4-H Dairy Club. Kristi also sits on the York County 4-H Advisory Council. She shared with us, "it's an honor to serve on a board that does so much to preserve the county's heritage – Agriculture". Welcome Kristi and thank you for your service to our county and ag community.

Thanks also to April Cooper and all past Board Members for their service to the YCALPB.

The York County Ag Land Preservation Board expanded agency goals in 2012 with the creation of the York County Easement Donation Program. Throughout last year, the York County Ag Land Preservation Board and staff approved language to accept easement donations to the County of York. Following approval by the York County Board of Commissioners, staff worked on the first donation application with landowner's Sally and Casey Barnes. Sally shared with staff, "We absolutely love where we live. It's a very pretty valley and we wanted to do our part in preserving it for future generations. When we discovered we didn't qualify for the County program, we started to pursue donation easements with Patty McCandless. Working with the York County's Ag Preserve Program just seemed to be the right fit for us". On December 5<sup>th</sup>, the Barnes' easement donation was approved by the County Commissioner's. On December 17, 2012 the Barnes' permanently preserved their 35-acre York Township farm. Since the preservation of this first easement donation to the county, there has been increased interest in the option of preservation to the County of York through an easement donation. Several farm owners have expressed an interest in making an easement donation to the County of York in 2013.

Since program recertification in December 2011, a total of 73 applications, totaling 6,155 acres, have been received for easement purchase. Of these applications, 41 farms, totaling 3,339 acres, have been ranked. The Board chose, for 2012 appraisal, the top 6 farms, covering 716 acres. Preservation in 2013 is anticipated.

Regarding program funding, \$100,000 has been certified by the Board of Commissioner's for 2013 easement purchases. The Board awaits 2013 state matching funds from PDA-Bureau of Farmland Preservation. In 2012, \$ 158,000 in Federal Farm and Ranchland Protection Program (FRPP) funds were approved toward the preservation of a York County farm. Additional FRPP funds are anticipated in 2013.

SAVE THE DATE. For landowners interested in applying for the County Easement Purchase Program, or, the Easement Donation Program, a public meeting will be held Wednesday February 20, 2013, Room 1 of the County Annex Building. The meeting is scheduled from 1-3 PM. Topics include: application submission, eligibility requirements, easement restrictions, conservation planning, updates made to the PA Clean Streams Law, and more. Please call (717) 840-7400 to reserve your seat.

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