

BEAVER COUNTY AGRICULTURAL LAND PRESERVATION



In 1995 the Beaver County Commissioner's appointed a nine member Agricultural Land Preservation Board (ALPB) consisting of four farmers, one elected local government official, one contractor and three members at large. As of February 12, 2015, Beaver County has preserved 2,753 acres on 25 farms. Beaver County also has 15 municipalities that have adopted Agricultural Security Areas, which allow farmers the opportunity to farm using normal farming practices without fear of the municipality trying to restrict such practices.

It is the purpose of this program to:

- 1. Encourage landowners to make a long-term commitment to agriculture by offering them financial incentives and security of land use.**
- 2. Protect normal farming operations in agricultural security areas from incompatible non-farmland uses that may render farming impracticable.**
- 3. Protect farming operations from complaints of public nuisance against normal farming operations.**
- 4. Assure conservation of viable agricultural lands in order to protect the agricultural economy of this Commonwealth.**
- 5. Provide compensation to landowners in exchange for their relinquishment of the right to develop their private property.**
- 6. Maximize agricultural easement purchase funds and protect the investment of taxpayers in agricultural conservation easements.**
- 7. Preserve agricultural productivity by buying easements on land most logically to remain as farmland in lieu of buying easements on land close to encroaching residential or commercial development.**

Pennsylvania has the number one farmland preservation program in the country, with 504,252 acres preserved in perpetuity (forever) on 4,750 farms as of February 12, 2015. There are 54 counties with farmland preservation programs and each county has its own administrator. The funding for this program comes from a 2 cent per pack cigarette tax at the state and each of the counties contribute what their budgets will allow. There is also a provision in the law to allow local municipalities the opportunity to contribute funds, which can then be used to co-purchase an agricultural conservation easement in their municipality.

For more information, or any questions, please contact me.

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Chairman/Administrator

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