



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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AGRICULTURAL LAND PRESERVATION BOARD ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS

Uniontown, PA - The annual application period for the Fayette County Agricultural Land Preservation Board is now open.

Founded in 1996, the Agricultural Land Preservation Programs goals include sustaining farmland and preserving the best soils in Fayette County. Program funding is generated through the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture's Clean and Green Program, tobacco taxes, county contributions and more.

Fayette County Chief Community Development Specialist Art Cappella said agriculture is the leading industry in both Pennsylvania and Fayette County.

"Preserving farmland means investing in Fayette County's future. Agricultural easements conserve food production sources and green spaces," Cappella said. "It is also a method by which we can maintain the farming industry's traditions and culture; as well as enhance Fayette's community appearance by establishing a common balance between economic development and the agriculture industry."

Some program requirements include:

- A minimum of 50 acres of farmland.
- Location in an agricultural security area. (These areas may include non-adjacent farmland parcels of at least 10 acres. Applicants must contact their local governments to place farmland into an agricultural security area.)
- Completion of an appraisal and soil testing following application submission.

Cappella said 25 Fayette County farms are currently part of the program, with a total of 2,923 acres preserved as of 2022. More than \$3.4 million have been invested in the project.

All applications are valid for two years. The 2023 application period closes September 1.

"Agricultural land preservation helps control urban sprawl, while allowing for smart development and growth," Cappella said. "It allows for investment where infrastructure already exists, so no one has to cut down trees or chew up farms."

Interested landowners may apply by contacting the Fayette County Office of Planning, Zoning and Community Development, 724-430-1210; at the Fayette County Courthouse, 61 E. Main St., Uniontown, PA 15401.

To learn more about Fayette County, visit www.fayettecountypa.org.

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For more information, contact Kristi Kassimer Harper, Public Relations Specialist, at 724-437-4571, kkassimer@fayettecountypa.info or Kaylie Moore, Community Relations Coordinator, at 724-430-1200 Ext. 1611, kmoore@fayettepa.org.