

More Farmland Preserved

HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.) — The Pennsylvania Agricultural Land Preservation Board has approved easement purchases for 24 farms in 13 counties, protecting 2,947 acres of prime farmland from development.

"We're closing out a very successful year for the farmland protection program," said state Agriculture Secretary and Board Chairman Boyd E. Wolff. "More counties are protecting an increasing number of farms."

Under the Farmland Protection Program, which began in 1989, the state and counties purchase development rights to guarantee that their farms will remain as agricultural land. Individual landowners apply to county Agricultural Land Preservation Boards.

If approved for possible easement purchase, the county boards may request state funding participation. Counties may participate jointly with the state in easement purchases or may purchase easements outright themselves.

Today's meeting also represents the first time that board-approved easements will be funded by state cigarette tax revenue. Revenue set aside for farmland preservation was included in Act 22 of 1991. Based upon a tax of two cents on every pack of cigarettes sold in the Commonwealth, the tax is projected to generate \$22 million annually.

Cigarette tax revenue is transferred to the farmland protection program twice per year, in January and July. Some of the easements approved for purchase at today's meeting will be funded with July cigarette tax revenue.

Following are the properties approved, listed by county, owner, township, acreage and purchase cost:

- Berks — Clarence D. and Esther L. Gelsing, Heidelberg Township, 125 acres, \$249,680.
- Berks — Roy O. and Gloria M. Christman, Marion Township, 239 acres, \$452,200.
- Berks — Paul R. and Verna M. Christman Farm #2, Perry Township, 118 acres, \$223,744.
- Berks — Richard and Kay Kerper, Richmond Township, 74 acres, \$148,820.
- Berks — Omar A. Kurtz, Oley Township, 127 acres, \$253,320.
- Berks — Paul R. and Verna M. Christman Farm #1, Perry Township, 110 acres, \$187,748.
- Berks — Thun Farm #2, Lower Heidelberg Township, 120 acres, \$242,975.
- Berks — Thun Farm #1 (Louis Thun Trust Farm), 63 acres, \$126,000.
- Chester — Aaron S. and Miriam S. King, Honey Brook Township, 38 acres, \$123,981.
- Chester — E. Robert and Betty L. Piefer, Londonderry Township, 133 acres, \$245,573.
- Cumberland — Richard G. and Shelva J. Mains Farm #2, Penn Township, 211 acres, \$397,102.
- Dauphin — Blair R. and Marie O. Enders, Jackson Township, 143 acres, \$191,321.
- Dauphin — Willard and Janice Schlegel, Upper Paxton Township, 98 acres, \$118,629.
- Lehigh — Clayton P. and Geraldine V. Kerschner, Heidelberg Township, 135 acres, \$270,869.
- Lehigh — Forrest A. Sr. and Grace O. Wessner, Heidelberg Township, 75 acres, \$142,714.
- Lycoming — Robert Steppe, Limestone Township, 103 acres, \$108,000.
- Mercer — John L. Friede, Delaware Township, 111 acres, \$22,152.
- Montgomery — Wilmer F. and Millie M. Alderfer, Limerick Township, 53 acres, \$363,732.
- Schuylkill — Lyndon Hepler, Eldred Township, 89 acres, \$89,400.
- Union — John R. and Mabel J. Walter, East Buffalo Township, 94 acres, \$98,815.
- Union — Donald B. and Ruth E. Spangler, Limestone Township, 126 acres, \$113,283.
- Wayne — Clarence and Lois Fitze, Clinton Township, 167 acres, \$186,637.
- Westmoreland — Donald C. and Judith Fretts, East Huntingdon Township, 69 acres, \$126,979.
- York — Barley's Star Rock Farm, East Township, 326 acres, \$549,290.

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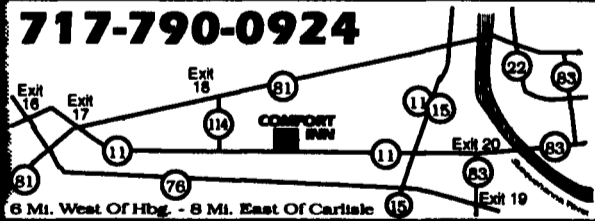
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