

Governor Ridge Announces Preservation Of 35 More Farms

HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.) — Gov. Tom Ridge announced on March 23 the approval of 35 farms - nearly 4,100 acres - for preservation. The approval puts Pennsylvania two-thirds of the way toward fulfilling Gov. Ridge's pledge to preserve 100 farms during the "100 Days of Growing Greener."

"In January, I announced our goal of preserving 100 farms by Earth Day to demonstrate our commitment to Pennsylvania's farm families and our state's proud agricultural heritage," Gov. Ridge said. "Already, we've invested nearly \$12 million to help protect 67 farms that are threatened by development, and safeguarded the quality of life that these farm families enjoy."

But that's only the beginning. 'Growing Greener' will invest a total of \$100 million over the next five years to save top quality farmland for future generations of farmers and farm families.

"When we preserve farms, we preserve part of the essential Pennsylvania experience — the scenic farmland vistas we pass as we cross the state, and the fresh Pennsylvania produce we enjoy at the grocery store or the farmers' market. The loss of farmland is a loss for all Pennsylvanians. And that's why 'Growing Greener' — the state's largest-ever environmental investment — was my No. 1 legislative priority last fall and will continue to be a priority for my Administration."

Gov. Ridge said the 35 farms approved for preservation on March 23 is a record for one State Agricultural Land Preservation Board meeting, and represents nearly \$6.3 million in state funds to protect farmland from non-agricultural development.

Created in 1989, the Pennsylvania Agricultural Land Preservation Board oversees the state Farmland Preservation Program. The program allows the state and counties to purchase development rights, referred to as easements, to guarantee that farms will remain as agricultural land.

Agriculture Secretary Samuel E. Hayes Jr. said he will continue to work with the State Agricultural Land Preservation Board, county farmland-preservation boards and the state's farm community to reach Gov. Ridge's goal of 100 farms.

"The board shares the Gov. Ridge's enthusiasm and commitment to Pennsylvania's farm families," Secretary Hayes, Chairman of the State Agricultural Land Preservation Board, said. "We are determined to meet his goal of preserving 100 farms in 100 days."

Including the six county-owned easements accepted in March, the Farmland Preservation Program has protected 1,260 farms in 42 counties encompassing 156,289 acres.

Following is a list of 29 properties approved for easement purchase using state funds, including owner, municipality, acreage and purchase cost:

ADAMS COUNTY: Nadine Baugher, Tyrone and Huntingdon townships, 96 acres, \$114,871;

BERKS COUNTY: Timothy A. and Pamela F. Behm, Maxatawny Township, 114 acres, \$228,000; Irvin G. and Nancy J. Weaver, Marion Township, 88 acres, \$175,800;

CHESTER COUNTY: Guiney Partnership, Highland Township, 107 acres, \$384,750; George P. and Suzanne P. Lamborn, West Nottingham Township, 133 acres, \$406,362; Sara W. Moore, London Grove Township, 63 acres, \$202,973; Joseph W. III and Blanche C. Thompson, Londonderry and Penn townships, 159 acres, \$811,054;

COLUMBIA COUNTY: Frank A. and Jean E. Getty, Franklin Township, 129 acres, \$128,903; Ronald L. and Cathy S. Rohrbach, Franklin and Catawissa townships, 59 acres, \$59,300;

CUMBERLAND COUNTY: Mark E. and Linda G. Brandt, Southampton Township, 155 acres, \$232,500; Gregory A. Briggs and Patricia Whitaker, South Middleton Township, 97 acres, \$222,147; Galen R. and Linda K. Smith, Southampton Township, 99 acres, \$129,467;

LACKAWANNA COUNTY: John, Joseph and Sal Cognetti, Benton Township, 235 acres, \$367,086;

LANCASTER COUNTY: Dale R., Clair H. and Steven B. Hershey Farm, Penn Township, 131 acres, \$269,387; Gerald H. Hess, Penn Township, 97 acres, \$312,180;

LAWRENCE COUNTY: Harold S. and Mary C. McConnell, Washington Township, 93 acres, \$92,510;

LEBANON COUNTY: Ronald L. and Brenda H. Copenhaver, South Annville Township, 121 acres, \$181,500; Steve J., Bonnie L., Glenn J. and Jean L. Wenger, South Lebanon Township, 98 acres, \$147,375;

LYCOMING COUNTY: J. Larry Sr. and Sandra J. Foresman, Washington Township, 101 acres, \$90,720; Charles J. Kitzmiller, Jordan Township, 238 acres, \$214,020; Charles C. Stammel Jr., Gamble Township, 58 acres, \$46,980; Charles and

Patricia Ulrich, Washington Township, 95 acres, \$76,788;

MERCER COUNTY: David E. and Esther Mae Dixon, Lackawannock Township, 158 acres, \$126,424;

MONTGOMERY COUNTY: J. Robert Astheimer, Limerick Township, 71 acres, \$710,000; Stephen J. Virus, Upper Hanover Township, 55 acres, \$191,380;

SUSQUEHANNA COUNTY: John R. and Donalee T. Ben-

scoter, Auburn Township, 105 acres, \$73,150;

WESTMORELAND COUNTY: Robert T. Zaffey, East Huntingdon Township, 151 acres, \$287,425;

YORK COUNTY: David and Christine Druck, Lower Chanceford Township, 218 acres, \$242,753; and Joseph and Fern Pomraning, Chanceford Township, 295 acres, \$418,984.

Created in 1989, the Pennsylvania Agricultural Land Preser-

USDA Announces New Disaster Relief For Livestock Losses

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The USDA announced that producers who raise livestock owned by others can be reimbursed for income lost in 1999 because of natural disasters that killed the livestock.

In Lancaster County, producers affected by Hurricanes Floyd and

Dennis may qualify.

Farmers can sign up for this program March 27 - May 1 at the Farm Service Agency.

The Livestock Indemnity Program for Contract Growers (LIP-CG) is available where presidential or secretarial disaster declarations were made

between Jan. 1 through Dec. 31, 1999.

Livestock producers who qualified for benefits under previous livestock indemnity programs can't get benefits from this program. Funding for this assistance was explicitly authorized by the Consolidated

Appropriations Act, 2000 (Pub.L. 106-113).

More information is available at local FSA office or USDA Service Centers, which are listed in telephone books under "United States Government, Department of Agriculture, or <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/pas/news/releases/index.htm>

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