

Ridge Administration Announces About 300 Farms Preserved In 2000

HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.) — State Agriculture Secretary Sam Hayes announced the approval of 30 farms — totaling nearly 3,100-acres, for preservation.

The announcement brings the total number of farms preserved since January to 283 — with more than 33,000-acres — the most farms preserved during any year since Pennsylvania's farmland preservation program began in 1989.

"The Ridge Administration is proud to say that Pennsylvania's Farmland Preservation Program is preserving farmland at a pace faster than any other state in the nation," Hayes said.

"Thanks to Gov. Ridge's

'Growing Greener' program and the strides we made during the '100 Days of Growing Greener,' we are able to preserve more Pennsylvania farms than ever before."

At the December meeting, it was announced that 135 farms were preserved this fall.

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

At the meeting, five farms totaling 355-acres from Chester, Lehigh, and Northampton coun-

ties were preserved under county-owned easement programs.

Ridge signed the "Growing Greener" initiative into law on Dec. 15, 1999, investing nearly \$650 million in Pennsylvania's environment — including \$100 million for farmland preservation — over five years.

To celebrate the largest environmental investment in Pennsylvania history — and to begin to get these dollars into our communities as quickly as possible — Ridge launched the "100 Days of Growing Greener" at the Pennsylvania Farm Show in January.

In May, the General Assembly passed Gov. Ridge's 2000-2001 budget, which includes \$135

million to fund the second year of the five-year "Growing Greener" initiative. The funds come from \$100 million in new money from the General Fund and \$35 million redirected from existing funding sources.

For more information on the Farmland Preservation Program, contact the Bureau of Farmland Preservation at (717) 783-3167.

Here is a list of approved farms.

Adams County

- Ronald and Joyce Funt, Menallen Township, 172-acres, \$172,740.

- Dale and Bertha Grove, Mount Joy Township, 106-acres, \$119,028.

- Raymond and Linda Kuntz, Tyrone Township, 146-acres, \$163,269.

- Gary and Linda Leer, Lattimore Township, 116-acres, \$152,225.

Beaver County

- Alice Dietrich, Sewickley Township, 53-acres, \$141,087.

Centre County

- Robert and Beverly Connolly, Walker Township, 219-acres, \$50,288.

Chester County

- Richard and Ann Abbott, The Charlton Bloodstock Agency Inc., Highland Township, 139-acres, \$539,292.

- Eleanor Jones and the Estate of Martin Jones, East Coventry Township, 84-acres, \$357,591.

- Roger and Brenda Gayle Legg, Highland Township, 27-acres, \$144,473.

- Llanduey Limited Partnership, Londonderry Township, 166-acres, \$911,753.

- Mary Mann Farm, Highland Township, 51-acres, \$245,922.

- Elizabeth Parry, Upper Oxford Township, 98-acres, \$167,740.

Clinton County

- Gregory Nedurian, Lamar Township, 94-acres, \$99,000.

Cumberland County

- Ralph and Linda Deitch, Middlesex Township, 57-acres, \$155,632.

Dauphin County

- Delmar and Susan Weaver, Lykens Township, 140-acres, \$153,545.

Lebanon County

- Donald and Sherry Hoffer, South Annville Township, 115-acres, \$173,400.

- Richard and Lois Meily, North Lebanon Township, 130-acres, \$194,790.

Lycoming County

- Ellen Fogleman, Muncy Creek Township, 93-acres, \$100,332.

- Shirley Harer, Clinton Township, 205-acres, \$203,148.

- Lin Laurenson, Shrewsbury Township, 67-acres, \$48,456.

- Charles and Linda Shutts, Limestone Township, 100-acres, \$72,144.

- Charles and Linda Shutts, Limestone Township, 118-acres, \$85,140.

Mifflin County

- William and Helen Ammon, Oliver Township, 91-acres, \$109,072.

Monroe County

- Steven and Colleen Parisi, Polk Township, 57-acres, \$133,185.

Montgomery County

- Henry Reifsneider, Limerick Township, 103-acres, \$1,766,647.

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