

# Historic Farmland Preservation Accomplishments

**HARRISBURG** (Dauphin Co.) — Pennsylvania continues to lead the nation in farmland preservation.

At the State Farmland Preservation Board meeting in December, the Schweiker administration announced that Pennsylvania had a record-breaking year in farmland preservation. Three hundred and nine farms were preserved in 2001.

The Farmland Preservation Board also approved the addition of Bradford and Huntingdon counties into the Pennsylvania Farmland Preservation Program, bringing the total number of counties participating to 53.

"Farmland Preservation is proof positive of the success of 'Growing Greener,'" announced Gov. Mark Schweiker. "Thanks to the 'Growing Greener' program, we are able to preserve more Pennsylvania farms than ever before. Pennsylvania takes great pride in its agricultural heritage and we need to take every step to preserve it for future generations."

"Growing Greener" is Pennsylvania's historic commitment to the environment and open space. About \$650 million over five years, including \$100 million in farmland preservation, is devoted into Pennsylvania's largest-ever environmental investment.

"Pennsylvania has responded to the call for preserving our prime agricultural land. Pennsylvania leads the nation in the preservation of farmland."

## Record-Breaking 309 Farms Preserved In 2001

"Through the hard work and dedication of the state preservation board, county preservation boards, state lawmakers, and farmers, we have broken yet another farmland preservation record, an all-time high of 309 farms preserved in one year," said Agriculture Secretary Sam Hayes. "I am also pleased to welcome Bradford and Huntingdon counties into the State Preservation Program."

At the December meeting, 22 farms totaling 2,810 acres were approved for preservation by the State Preservation Board. Since 1989, Pennsylvania has preserved a total 1,785 farms totaling 215,243 acres across Pennsylvania.

The State Farmland Preservation Board purchases development rights, referred to as easements, to safeguard Pennsylvania's pristine farmland for future generations.

Hayes noted, "When we preserve a farm, not only do we preserve open space but we also preserve productivity of farmland, which helps sustain the food needs of our people."

In February 2001, Pennsylvania's farmland preservation efforts were recognized by the American Farmland Trust, as the national leader in farmland preservation with more farmland preserved than any other state in the nation. Continuing the preservation charge, Pennsylvania observed its

200,000-acre milestone in August at Ag Progress Days in Rockspring.

To further assist farmers and

landowners with the tax planning on farmland preservation easements, the Installment Purchase Agreement Program allows landowners to defer capital gains taxes, allowing the county preservation programs to use funding towards the preservation of other farms. The State Farmland Preservation Board approved the first two farms into the Installment Purchase Agreement Program in 2001.

To assist counties with their farmland preservation efforts, the Land Trust Reimbursement Grant Program provides up to \$5,000 to reimburse Land Trusts for the costs of acquiring agricultural easements. Currently 15 Land Trusts participate in the Land Trust Reimbursement Grant Program.

To learn more about Pennsylvania's nation-leading Farmland Preservation Program, visit the Department of Agriculture's Homepage through the Pennsylvania PowerPort at [www.state.pa.us](http://www.state.pa.us) or directly at [www.pda.state.pa.us](http://www.pda.state.pa.us).

Following is a listing of farms approved for preservation, listed by county including owner, municipality, acres, and easement purchase price.

### • Bedford County:

Bradley and Berneta Gable, South Woodbury Township, 237 acres, \$255,000

### • Berks County:

Titus and Ester Kurtz, Caernarvon Township, 102 acres, \$204,800  
Larry Heffelfinger, Tulpehocken Township, 224 acres, \$448,600  
Larry and Dolores Gelsinger, Heidelberg Township, 154 acres, \$307,200  
Charles and Arlene Savidge, Longswamp Town-

ship, 113 acres, \$226,200  
Randall and Tina Weaver, Tulpehocken Township, 160 acres, \$320,200

### • Butler County:

John and Kathy Allen, Clinton Township, 80 acres, \$215,800

### • Chester County:

Samuel Goodley, Jr., East Nottingham Township, 94 acres, \$499,666

### • Lancaster County:

Elam and Joan Rutt, Clay Township, 112 acres, \$385,586

### • Lebanon County:

Mark and Alice Copenhaver, South Annville Township, 125 acres, \$187,335

Gary and Jane Forney, South Annville Township, 72 acres, \$108,645

Christopher and Cynthia Patches, South Lebanon Township, 111 acres, \$166,440

### • Luzerne County:

Stanley and Lucille Stempien, Union Township, 89 acres, \$106,800

### • Montgomery County:

Delaware Valley College, Worcester Township, 124 acres, \$1,656,296

### • Monroe County:

Richard Kreger and Karen Chain, Chestnut Hill and Polk Townships, 80 acres, \$161,308

### • Montour County:

Jerry and Sandra Smith, Limestone Township, 73 acres, \$72,872

### • Susquehanna County:

Richard and Linda Naylor, Springville Township, 152 acres, \$102,836

### • Washington County:

George and Bonnie Paxton, Chartiers Township, 136 acres, \$272,736

### • Westmoreland County:

Dominick and Cheryl Fanell, Mt. Pleasant Township, 132 acres, \$262,134

Under the County Preservation Program, three farms totaling 296 were preserved in Chester, Monroe, and Westmoreland counties.

## Franklin County Dairy Day Set

**CHAMBERSBURG** (Franklin Co.) — Franklin County Dairy Day will be conducted on Friday, Jan. 4 at Kauffman's Community Center, Chambersburg.

Program topics include dairy cattle nutrition, cow comfort and environmental rules/regulations. Speakers will be Jud Heinrichs, Charles Abdalla, and Dan McFarland of Penn State. A panel of dairy producers will discuss their experiences with managing a Hispanic workforce.

Agri-business firms will co-sponsor the educational meeting and have exhibits on display. Area dairy producers are invited to arrive at 8:45 a.m. to visit the exhibits and have refreshments.

The formal program begins at 9:30 a.m. with adjournment scheduled for 2:30 p.m.

Kauffman's Community Center is located in the village of Kauffman Station which lies between I-81 and U.S. 11, about nine miles south of Chambersburg and four miles north of Greencastle. It is about two miles south of the Marion Exit (10) of I-81. The easiest approach is to turn east off U.S. 11 at Crossroads Dairy Farms, located four miles north of Greencastle. Follow signs to Community Center.

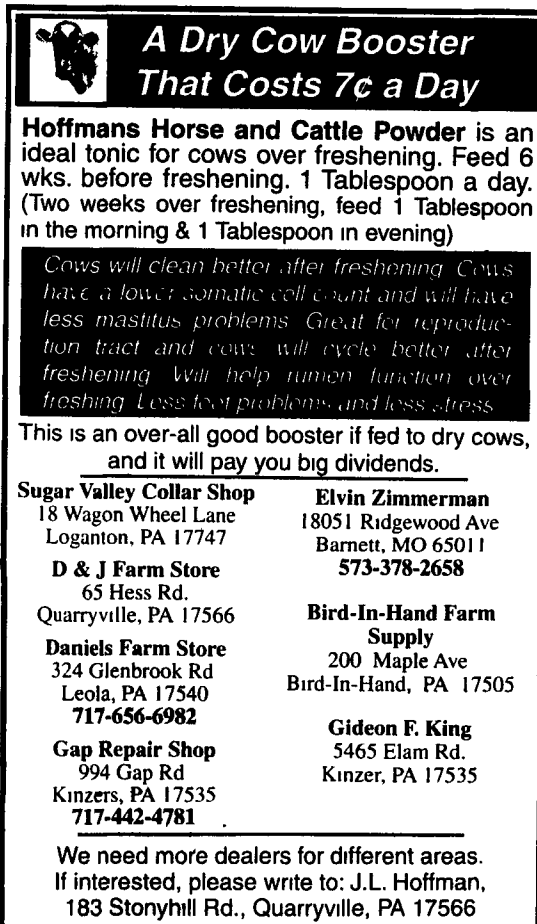
For further information contact Philip Wagner, extension dairy agent at (717) 263-9226.



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"She shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call him Jesus: for he shall save his people from their sins."

Matthew 1:21

To all of our valued friends and loyal customers we offer our thanks and best wishes for a very Merry Christmas and a prosperous year in 2002!

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