



Cumberland County Board of Commissioners

Gary Eichelberger, Chairman . Jean Foschi, Vice Chairman . Vincent T. DiFilippo, Secretary

Press Release

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Cumberland County Secures Nearly \$4 Million For Farmland Preservation

The county has preserved 22,533 acres of farmland in perpetuity since 1989.

Carlisle, PA – The Cumberland County Commissioners recently certified 2023 funds for the County’s Farmland Preservation Program. The annual certification allocates funds to the Program, which allows the county to apply for match funding from the state.

The commissioners certified a total of \$1,516,361, which includes general fund contribution of \$850,000, Silver Spring Township contribution of \$540,857, Clean and Green rollback interest and private donations totaling \$125,504. The \$1,516,361 was used to leverage an additional \$2,323,759 in state funding. Additional federal funds bring the total allocated to farmland preservation to \$3,964,968 for 2023.

“Since 1989, the county has preserved 204 farms covering 22,533 acres,” said Vince DiFilippo, Cumberland County Commissioner. “We’re proud to partner with our municipalities and the state to continue preserving prime farmland for generations to come. We are on target to reach our goal to preserve 30,000 acres by the year 2030.”

With the nearly \$4 million in allocated funding, an estimated 1,050 acres of prime farmland are expected to be preserved in 2023.

“We are grateful for all the donations we receive from our residents and businesses who wish to help preserve our farmland, said Stephanie Williams,” senior planning manager. Every dollar donated goes towards the preservation of Cumberland County farms and generates at least one dollar in matching funds from the state.” Learn more about making donations on our [website](#).

The Agricultural Conservation Easement Program strengthens Pennsylvania’s agricultural economy by protecting prime farmland. The program incorporates the use of county, state, federal and local funds to purchase agricultural conservation easements on prime agricultural land from willing landowners.

Cumberland County farmers are paid to place restrictions on the land to maintain and permanently preserve high quality, functional farmland. The land continues to be the farmer’s

private property and they retain all privileges of land ownership, except the ability to sell the land for non-agricultural development or to develop the land for non-agricultural purposes.

An agricultural conservation easement is permanent; if a landowner wishes to sell the land, the easement is transferred, and the new landowner must continue to use the property exclusively for agriculture.

For more information on Cumberland County's Farmland Preservation Program, visit www.cumberlandcountypa.gov/farmland.

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