



Governor Ted Strickland
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Department of Agriculture to Hold Clean Ohio Information Sessions

REYNOLDSBURG, Ohio (Jan. 22, 2009) – Find out how to apply for Clean Ohio Agricultural Easement Purchase Program (AEPP) funds during upcoming meetings offered by the Ohio Department of Agriculture.

Agricultural easements are voluntary legal agreements restricting non-agricultural development on farmland, with the land itself remaining on the tax rolls and under private ownership and management. Landowners may undertake any agricultural activity permitted under Ohio law, and they can sell their farm or pass it along as a gift to others. However, the easement remains with the land, prohibiting any future non-agricultural development to make certain that it remains used for agricultural purposes.

Meetings will feature a presentation by the department's farmland preservation staff as well as testimony from landowners who have participated in the program. Meeting attendees will also have the opportunity to discuss the program with Ohio Department of Agriculture staff, including the tax advantages involved.

Local partners will also be present at each meeting to provide information and direction to landowners. It is important for attendees to connect with these partners, who submit the AEPP applications to the department on behalf of farm owners.

Southwest

Jan. 29, 6 – 7:30 p.m.

Wilmington Municipal Building

Community Room, 1st Floor

69 N. South St.

Wilmington, Ohio

Local partners: Clinton County Open Lands, Inc.; Tecumseh Land Trust; Southern Ohio Farmland Preservation Association

Northwest

Feb. 3, 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.

WW Knight Nature Preserve

29530 White Rd.

Perrysburg, Ohio

Local partner: Black Swamp Conservancy

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Northeast

Feb. 11, 6 – 7 p.m. (networking will follow)

Hiram College Kennedy Center

Second Floor Ballroom

11730 Garfield Rd.

Hiram, Ohio

Local Partners: Countryside Conservancy; Western Reserve Land Conservancy; Hiram College Center for the Study of Nature and Society; Western Reserve RC&D Council

Southeast

Feb. 12, 5:30 – 7 p.m. (optional break-out sessions will follow)

Logan High School

14470 St. Rt. 328

Logan, Ohio

Local Partners: Licking Land Trust; Ohio Farm Bureau; Fairfield Land Preservation Association; Appalachia Ohio Alliance

RSVP to the Fairfield County Farm Bureau at 800-992-3276

Contact the Ohio Department of Agriculture's Office of Farmland Preservation with any questions about the meetings at 614-728-6210, or visit the Web site at www.agri.ohio.gov.

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