



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Local Ohioans Honored with Ohio Farmland Preservation Awards

REYNOLDSBURG, Ohio (June 6, 2014) – Director David T. Daniels presented awards to individuals who have dedicated themselves to building local farmland preservation programs.

The recipients are:

Louise Warner and Clyde Gosnell (Delaware County) are founding members of the Appalachia Ohio Alliance land trust which has now preserved 7,100 acres in public and private ownership. Warner also previously donated the first agricultural easement in Central Ohio on the Stratford Ecological Center.

Martha L. Jones (Marion County) preserved her family farms (80 and 136 acres), both of which are in a rotation of corn, soybeans, and wheat. These easements, the first donations in Marion County, were secured with the assistance of monitoring agent Marion County Soil and Water Conservation District.

Unable to attend, but also receiving awards are:

James Thorpe (Delaware County) donated three easements (64 acres, 122 acres, and 234 acres) to the Ohio Department of Agriculture and farms a standard rotation of corn, soybeans, and wheat. Currently, Thorpe is coordinating the donation of another easement on a farm owned with other members of his family. These easements were secured with the assistance of monitoring agent Delaware County Soil and Water Conservation District.

Jack and Lynn Patek (Fulton County) donated two easements (78 acres and 79 acres) to the Ohio Department of Agriculture in 2013. The major crops on the farm are corn, soybeans, and wheat. The easements were secured with the assistance of monitoring agent Fulton County Soil and Water Conservation District.

Richard and Diane Patek (Fulton County) donated two agricultural easements (63 and 69 acres) to the Ohio Department of Agriculture in 2013. The monitoring agent is the Fulton County Soil and Water Conservation District.

An agricultural easement is a permanent, legal agreement between the landowner and a partnering entity, which ensures land will remain in agricultural use in perpetuity.

Preserving productive farmland helps secure the future of the state's \$105 billion food and agriculture industry. The Ohio Department of Agriculture, with the help of local partners, has preserved more than 50,000 prime farmland acres through various preservation programs.

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Note to Editors: Photos available at <https://www.flickr.com/photos/112002455@N04/>.

