



Department of  
Agriculture

John R. Kasich | Governor

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**OHIO DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE ANNOUNCES 2015 FUNDING FOR  
LOCAL AGRICULTURAL EASEMENT PURCHASE PROGRAM**

REYNOLDSBURG, OH (Nov. 19, 2014) –The Ohio Department of Agriculture today announced that 12 land trusts, two counties, one township and six Soil and Water Conservation Districts will receive funding to help preserve farmland across the state. These organizations will receive allocations from the Clean Ohio Fund to manage the Local Agricultural Easement Purchase Program (LAEPP).

Local sponsors have been certified to accept applications from landowners in 51 counties. Interested landowners should contact the sponsor in their area for application details. A total of \$7,084,991 will be made available in this funding round. It is estimated this can leverage up to \$14 million from the Agricultural Conservation Easement/Agricultural Land Easement Program administered by the US Natural Resources Conservation Service for a total of \$21 million.

The program, which is voluntary and competitive, allows landowners to sell easements on their farms to the State of Ohio. The easement requires the farm remain permanently in agricultural production, supporting the state's largest industry. Selected farms must be 40 or more acres, actively engaged in farming, participate in the Current Agricultural Use Valuation program, demonstrate good stewardship of the land, have support from local government and not lay directly in the path of development. Landowners may use the proceeds of the easement in any way they wish, but most reinvest it in their farm operations.

Funding for the program is derived from the Clean Ohio Conservation Fund, approved by the voters in 2008. When combined with easements from all programs, 319 family farms in 55 counties have collectively preserved more than 55,000 acres.

For more information go to: <http://www.agri.ohio.gov/divs/FarmLand/>.

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*Media Contact: Ashley McDonald, Public Information Officer, 614-752-9817*

**Note to Editors:** Attached is the list of local sponsor organizations and amounts for the 2015 round of the LAEPP.



*Serving Farmers and Protecting Consumers Since 1846*

Ohio Department of Agriculture  
Office of Farmland Preservation  
Clean Ohio Fund  
2015 Local Agricultural Easement Purchase Program (LAEPP)  
Local Sponsor Certification Funding Summary

Local Sponsor	# of Counties Applied	Planned Application Period	Counties Applied			LAEPP Award	Potential ACEP-ALE*
Appalachia Ohio Alliance	6	90 days	Athens Pickaway	Franklin Ross	Hocking Vinton	\$ 218,242	\$ 436,484
Black Swamp Conservancy	6	90 days	Allen Sandusky	Fulton Seneca	Lucas Wood	\$ 658,302	\$ 1,316,604
Champaign County SWCD	1	90 days	Champaign			\$ 167,469	\$ 334,938
Clinton County Open Lands	1	90 days	Clinton			\$ 330,110	\$ 660,220
Elizabeth Township - Miami County	1	90 days	Miami			\$ 168,447	\$ 336,894
Fairfield County Commissioners	1	90 days	Fairfield			\$ 530,100	\$ 1,060,200
Fayette County SWCD	1	90 days	Fayette			\$ 236,603	\$ 473,206
Killbuck Watershed Land Trust	3	90 days	Ashland	Holmes	Wayne	\$ 381,272	\$ 762,544
Lake County SWCD	1	90 days	Lake			\$ 204,403	\$ 408,806
Land Conservancy of Hamilton County	1	90 days	Hamilton			\$ 135,043	\$ 270,086
Licking County SWCD	1	90 days	Licking			\$ 299,568	\$ 599,136
Logan County Land Trust	1	90 days	Logan			\$ 418,976	\$ 837,952
Madison County Commissioners	1	90 days	Madison			\$ 594,841	\$ 1,189,682
Montgomery County SWCD	1	90 days	Montgomery			\$ 176,032	\$ 352,064
Philander Chase - Owl Creek Conservancy	1	90 days	Knox			\$ 211,055	\$ 422,110
Southern Ohio Farmland Preservation Assoc.	2	90 days	Brown	Clermont		\$ 168,332	\$ 336,664
Tecumseh Land Trust	2	90 days	Clark	Greene		\$ 549,674	\$ 1,099,348
Three Valley Conservation Trust	2	90 days	Butler	Preble		\$ 605,001	\$ 1,210,002
Warren County SWCD	1	90 days	Warren			\$ 251,181	\$ 502,362
West Central Ohio Land Conservancy	2	90 days	Allen	Mercer		\$ 370,346	\$ 740,692
Western Reserve Land Conservancy	20	90 days	Ashland Columbiana Holmes Lake Medina Stark Tuscarawas	Ashtabula Erie Huron Lorain Portage Summit Wayne	Carroll Geauga Jefferson Mahoning Richland Trumbull	\$ 409,994	\$ 819,988
<b>Total Local Sponsors: 21</b>			<b>Total Individual Counties: 51</b>			\$ 7,084,991	\$ 14,169,982
							\$ 21,254,973

\* USDA - Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) - Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP-ALE - formerly FRPP)