

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Ohio Department of Agriculture Announces 2014  
Local Agricultural Easements Approved for Purchase**

REYNOLDSBURG, OH (Jun. 18, 2014) – The Ohio Department of Agriculture (ODA) today announced approval for local sponsors to purchase agricultural easements in 21 counties.

Local sponsoring organizations, who include land trusts, counties and local Soil and Water Conservation Districts, receive funding from the Clean Ohio Fund to manage the Local Agricultural Easement Purchase Program (LAEPP). The easement purchases will ensure farms remain permanently in agricultural production, while continuing under private ownership.

To be eligible for the program, farms must be larger than 40 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 be in close proximity to development. Landowners may use the proceeds of the easement in any way they wish, but most reinvest it in their farm operation.

Communities wishing to participate next year can apply to be Certified Local Sponsors between September 15 and October 15, 2014. Certified Local Sponsors assist landowners interested in selling easements with the application process, easement closing and monitoring, and are ODA’s valued partners in carrying out the Ohio Farmland Preservation program.

Funding for the state’s farmland preservation efforts is derived from the Clean Ohio Conservation Fund, approved by voters in 2008, and used to purchase agricultural easements from willing sellers through a competitive process. Since the program began, 315 family farms in 54 counties have collectively preserved 54,212 acres in agricultural production.

For more information visit: [www.agri.ohio.gov/divs/FarmLand/FarmLand.aspx](http://www.agri.ohio.gov/divs/FarmLand/FarmLand.aspx).

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**Note to Editors:** Attached is the list of counties where 2014 agricultural easements have been approved by ODA.





Department of  
Agriculture

John R. Kasich | Governor

David T. Daniels | Director

**Ohio Department of Agriculture 2014 Clean Ohio LAEPP Counties**

Allen  
Champaign  
Clark  
Clinton  
Fairfield  
Fulton  
Greene  
Huron  
Knox  
Lake  
Licking  
Logan  
Madison  
Montgomery  
Pickaway  
Portage  
Preble  
Sandusky  
Seneca  
Warren  
Wayne