



Department of  
Agriculture

John R. Kasich | Governor

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**OHIO DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE ANNOUNCES 2014 FUNDING FOR  
LOCAL AGRICULTURAL EASEMENT PURCHASE PROGRAM**

REYNOLDSBURG, OH (Dec. 09, 2013) – The Ohio Department of Agriculture (ODA) today announced that 17 land trusts, counties and local 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).

LAEPP sponsor organizations will accept on-line applications from Ohio landowners who are interested in selling an agricultural easement to ODA beginning January 15, 2014. The local sponsors have been certified to accept applications from landowners in 46 counties. A total of \$6 million will be made available in this funding round. It is estimated this can leverage up to \$18 million from the Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program for a total of \$24 million.

The program allows landowners to voluntarily sell easements on their farms to the State of Ohio. The easement requires the farm remain permanently in agricultural production. Selected farms must be more 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.

Funding for the program 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. When combined with easements from all programs, 303 family farms in 48 counties have collectively preserved 52,662 acres in agricultural production.

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

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**Note to Editors:** Attached is the list of partnering sponsor organizations and amounts for the 2014 round of the Local Agricultural Easement Purchase Program.

Ohio Department of Agriculture  
Office of Farmland Preservation  
Clean Ohio Fund

2014 Local Agricultural Easement Purchase Program (LAEPP)  
Local Sponsor Certification Funding Summary

#	Local Sponsor	# of Counties Applied	Planned Application Period	Counties Applied				Projected LAEPP Award	Potential FRPP*
1	Appalachia Ohio Alliance	4	90 days	Franklin	Hocking	Pickaway	Ross	\$ 366,242	\$ 1,098,725
2	Black Swamp Conservancy	4	90 days	Fulton	Sandusky	Seneca	Wood	\$ 564,320	\$ 1,692,959
3	Champaign County SWCD	1	90 days	Champaign				\$ 174,037	\$ 522,112
4	Clinton County Open Lands	1	90 days	Clinton				\$ 200,010	\$ 600,031
5	Darke County Land Trust Alliance	1	90 days	Darke				\$ 214,839	\$ 644,517
6	Fairfield County Commissioners	1	90 days	Fairfield				\$ 448,107	\$ 1,344,322
7	Killbuck Watershed Land Trust	2	90 days	Ashland	Wayne			\$ 354,944	\$ 1,064,831
8	Lake County SWCD	1	90 days	Lake				\$ 200,905	\$ 602,716
9	Licking County SWCD	1	60 days	Licking				\$ 356,180	\$ 1,068,540
10	Logan County Land Trust	1	90 days	Logan				\$ 284,324	\$ 852,972
11	Madison County Commissioners	1	90 days	Madison				\$ 665,016	\$ 1,995,047
12	Ohio Valley Conservation Coalition	4	90 days	Gallia	Jackson	Pike	Vinton	\$ 182,792	\$ 548,377
13	Philander Chase - Owl Creek Conservancy	1	90 days	Knox				\$ 316,783	\$ 950,348
14	Tecumseh Land Preservation Association	2	60 days	Clark	Greene			\$ 550,643	\$ 1,651,930
15	Three Valley Conservation Trust	3	60 days	Butler	Montgomery	Preble		\$ 511,362	\$ 1,534,085
16	West Central Ohio Land Conservancy	2	90 days	Allen	Mercer			\$ 230,877	\$ 692,630
17	Western Reserve Land Conservancy	19	90 days	Ashland Erie Lake Portage Trumbull	Ashtabula Geauga Lorain Richland Tuscarawas	Carroll Huron Mahoning Stark Wayne	Columbiana Jefferson Medina Summit	\$ 378,618	\$ 1,135,855
<b>Total</b>								\$ 6,000,000	\$ 18,000,000
<b>Potential Total</b>								\$ 24,000,000	

\* USDA - Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) - Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program (FRPP)