



Department of
Agriculture

John R. Kasich | Governor

David T. Daniels | Director

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

OHIO DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE ANNOUNCES 2017 LOCAL AGRICULTURAL EASEMENTS APPROVED FOR PURCHASE

REYNOLDSBURG, OH (June 14, 2017) – The Ohio Department of Agriculture (ODA) today announced approval for local sponsors to purchase agricultural easements on 58 family farms representing 8,737 acres in 28 counties.

Local sponsoring organizations, which 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 ensures farms remain permanently in agricultural production. The program supports the state's largest industry, food and agriculture.

To be eligible for the program, farms must be larger than 40 acres or next to a preserved farm, 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 August 21 and October 13, 2017. 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. From 2002 to 2016, 318 family farms in 58 counties have collectively preserved 55,532 acres in agricultural production. Permanent easements preserved under related programs bring the total acres currently preserved in Ohio to 65,567.

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

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

Note to Editors: Attached is the list of counties where 2017 agricultural easements have been approved by ODA.



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ODA 2017 Local Agricultural Easements Approved for Purchase

Allen
Ashtabula
Butler
Champaign
Clark
Clinton
Darke
Delaware
Fairfield
Fayette
Geauga
Greene
Highland
Knox
Lake
Licking
Logan
Madison
Marion
Miami
Montgomery
Muskingum
Preble
Sandusky
Seneca
Stark
Warren
Wayne



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