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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**OHIO DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE ANNOUNCES 2018 FUNDING FOR
LOCAL AGRICULTURAL EASEMENT PURCHASE PROGRAM**

REYNOLDSBURG, OH (Nov. 22, 2017) – The Ohio Department of Agriculture today announced that eight land trusts, four counties, one township and 10 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 select, close and monitor easements under the Local Agricultural Easement Purchase Program (LAEPP).

LAEPP sponsor organizations will accept applications from Ohio landowners interested in selling an agricultural easement on their farms. A total of \$8.56 million will be made available in this funding round. Local sponsors have been certified to accept applications in 40 counties. Interested landowners should contact the certified local sponsor in their county for application details.

The program allows landowners to voluntarily sell easements on their farms to the state of Ohio. The easement requires the farm remain permanently in agriculture production. Selected farms must be 40 acres or more, actively engaged in farming, participate in the Current Agricultural Use Valuation program, demonstrate good stewardship of the land, have the support of their 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 voters in 2008. When combined with easements from all programs, 401 family farms in 58 counties have collectively preserved more than 67,000 acres in agricultural production.

For more information on Ohio's farmland preservation effort visit: <http://www.agri.ohio.gov/divs/FarmLand/>.

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Note to Editors: Attached is the list of local sponsor organizations and amounts for the 2018 funding round of the LAEPP.



Serving Farmers and Protecting Consumers Since 1846

Ohio Department of Agriculture
Office of Farmland Preservation
Clean Ohio Fund
2018 Local Agricultural Easement Purchase Program (LAEPP)
Local Sponsor Certification Funding Summary

Local Sponsor	# of Counties Applied	Counties Applied			LAEPP Award
Belmont County SWCD	1	Belmont			\$ 155,319
Cardinal Land Conservancy	1	Adams			\$ 203,670
Champaign County SWCD	1	Champaign			\$ 400,017
Delaware County Commissioners	1	Delaware			\$ 446,657
Fairfield County Commissioners	1	Fairfield			\$ 469,850
Fayette County SWCD	1	Fayette			\$ 505,134
Fulton County SWCD	1	Fulton			\$ 500,030
Geagua County Commissioners	1	Geagua			\$ 211,195
Lake County SWCD	1	Lake			\$ 243,153
Licking County SWCD	1	Licking			\$ 413,512
Logan County Land Trust	1	Logan			\$ 467,076
Madison County Commissioners	1	Madison			\$ 907,151
Miami County SWCD	1	Miami			\$ 379,846
Montgomery County SWCD	1	Montgomery			\$ 397,208
Munson Twp - Geagua County	1	Geagua			\$ 196,187
Muskingum County SWCD	1	Muskingum			\$ 198,094
Philander Chase - Owl Creek Conservancy	1	Knox			\$ 271,497
Tecumseh Land Trust	2	Clark	Greene		\$ 548,317
Three Valley Conservation Trust	2	Butler	Preble		\$ 512,332
Warren County SWCD	1	Warren			\$ 305,916
West Central Ohio Land Conservancy	1	Allen			\$ 465,737
Western Reserve Land Conservancy	20	Ashland	Ashtabula	Carroll	\$ 372,088
		Columbiana	Erie	Geauga	
		Holmes	Huron	Jefferson	
		Lake	Lorain	Mahoning	
		Medina	Portage	Richland	
		Stark	Summit	Trumbull	
		Tuscarawas	Wayne		

Total Local Sponsors: 23

Total Individual Counties: 40

\$ 8,569,986
100%

Potential USDA - Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) - Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP-ALE)
Funding - Average award 2013-2017 = \$2.8 million/year