

AGRICULTURE IS THE LARGEST
INDUSTRY IN PENNSYLVANIA,
PRODUCING OVER \$45 BILLION
ANNUALLY AND PROVIDING
APPROXIMATELY 1 IN 6 JOBS IN
AGRICULTURE AND RELATED
BUSINESS.

In 2005, the Warren County Commissioners established the Warren County Agricultural Land Preservation Board in order to join statewide efforts to preserve the state's best, most productive agricultural soils. In December 2008, the Board made local history by partnering with the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture to purchase an agricultural easement (development rights) on 151 acres of farmland in Pine Grove Township. In 2009, a second easement was purchased in Farmington Township preserving 159 acres.

Pennsylvania leads the nation in farmland preservation. In 1987 a statewide voter referendum overwhelmingly won public support for this vital undertaking. Since 1987 over 400,000 acres of productive farmland have been protected, representing an investment of more than \$1 billion. Today funds are generated from the cigarette tax, from landfill tipping fees and as a part of the Growing Greener initiatives approved by voters. A relatively small percentage of county monies are needed to generate the state funding used in purchasing the acreage. Due to current funding constraints, the Commissioners have been unable to allocate any funding since 2007. To generate a greater allocation from the State, we desperately need funding for our Board to submit as "matching funds".



WARREN COUNTY AGRICULTURAL
LAND PRESERVATION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Jack Angove—Chairman
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The Warren County Agricultural Land
Preservation program is coordinated
through the
*Warren County Conservation
District*

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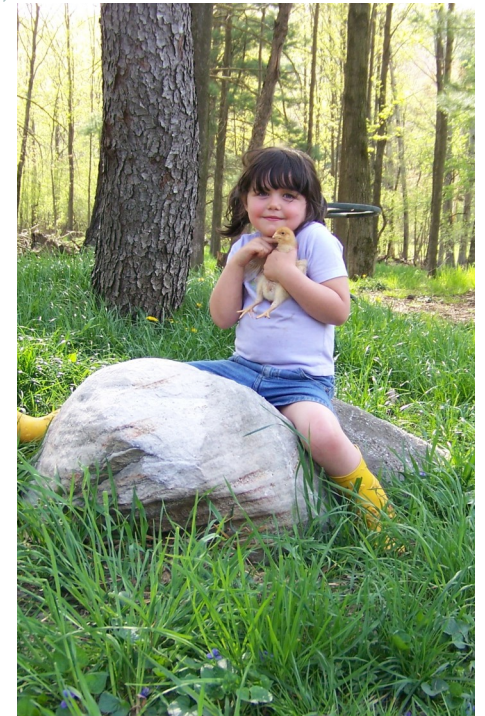
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Your private donations can help go towards
matching funds for our county. Please call for
more information.



WARREN COUNTY
AGRICULTURAL
LAND
PRESERVATION



*Preserving Farmland
for our Future*

WHY SAVE FARMLAND?



Productive agricultural land is a finite and irreplaceable natural resource. Fertile soils take thousands of

years to develop. Creating them takes a combination of climate, geology, biology and good luck. So far, no one has found a way to manufacture them.

America's agricultural land provides the nation—and world—with an unparalleled abundance of food and fiber products. The dominant role of U.S. agriculture in the global economy has been likened to OPEC's in the field of energy. The food and farming system is important to the balance of trade and the employment of nearly 23 million people.

Despite its importance to individual communities, the nation and the world, American farmland is at risk. It is imperiled by poorly planned development, especially in urban-influenced areas. Agricultural land is desirable for building because it tends to be flat, well drained and generally is more affordable to developers than to farmers and ranchers. USDA's National Resources Inventory shows that the best agricultural soils are being developed the fastest.

The U.S. food and farming system contributes nearly \$1 trillion to the national economy—or

more than 13% of the gross domestic product—and employs 17% of the labor force. With a rapidly increasing world population and expanding global markets, saving American farmland is a prudent investment in world food supply and economic opportunity.

Asian and Latin American countries are the most significant consumers of U.S. agricultural exports. While domestic food shortages are unlikely in the short term, the U.S. Census predicts the population will grow by 42% in the next 50 years. Many developing nations already are concerned about food security. The productivity and diversity of American agriculture can ensure food supplies and continuing preeminence in world markets. But this depends upon an investment strategy that preserves valuable assets, including agricultural land, to supply rapidly changing global demand.

Saving farmland is an investment in community infrastructure and economic development. It supports local government budgets and the ability to create wealth locally. In addition, distinctive agricultural landscapes are often magnets for tourism.

Agriculture contributes to local economies directly through sales, job creation, support services and businesses, and also by supplying lucrative secondary markets such as food processing. Privately owned and managed agricultural land generates more in local tax revenues than it costs in services. Local governments are discovering that they cannot afford to pay the price of unplanned development. Converting productive agricultural land to developed uses creates negative economic and environmental impacts.

Well-managed agricultural land provides food and cover for wildlife, helps control flooding, protects wetlands and watersheds, and maintains air quality. They can absorb and filter wastewater and provide groundwater recharge. Water pollution from urban development is well documented.

Farm and ranch land maintain scenic, cultural and historic landscapes. Their managed open spaces provide beautiful views and opportunities for hunting and fishing, horseback riding, skiing, dirt-biking and other recreational activities. Farms and ranches create identifiable and unique community character and add to the quality of life. Finally, farming is an integral part of our heritage and our identity as a people. American democracy is rooted in an agricultural past and founded on the principle that all people can own property and earn a living from the land. The ongoing relationship with the agricultural landscape connects Americans to history and to the natural world. Our land is our legacy, both as we look back to the past and as we consider what we have of value to pass on to future generations.



The above information is from the Farmland Information Center (FIC), American Farmland Trust. The FIC is a clearinghouse for information about farmland protection and stewardship. The FIC is a public/private partnership between American Farmland Trust and USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service. www.farmlandinfo.org