

For additional information



Lehigh County Farmland Preservation Program
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How to Preserve Your Lehigh County Farm



Lehigh County Farmland Preservation Program

To be eligible for the program, your farm must:

- Be located in an Agricultural Security Area
- Be at least 10 acres in size
- Have at least 50% of the property actively farmed
- Have at least 50% of the land in Soil Capability Class I-IV (better soils for agricultural production)



The Preservation Process

1. If you have not done so already, enroll your property in an Agricultural Security Area.
2. Submit an application to the Lehigh County Farmland Preservation Program by **March 31st** of each year.
3. All of the applications are then ranked by the Land Evaluation and Site Assessment System on the following factors:

- Soil Quality - 40% of Ranking Score
- Development Potential – 10%
- Farmland Potential – 30%
- Clustering Potential – 20%



4. If the property receives a high ranking, an appraisal will be ordered, for which the landowner pays a \$500.00 non-refundable fee to the County Board. The appraisal determines the compensation to be given to the landowner for the preservation of the farm.
5. An offer is made to the landowner after the appraisal is reviewed by the County board.
6. A Boundary Survey is conducted if needed.
7. A Conservation Plan is prepared for the landowner if needed.
8. The property is presented to the State and/or County Board for Approval.
9. Landowner receives compensation and a Deed of Agricultural Conservation Easement is signed.

The entire preservation process, from the time you apply to the time of actual settlement, can take 18 to 24 months, if your farm is selected for preservation.

