



Department of  
Agriculture

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**OHIO DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE ANNOUNCES 2017 FUNDING FOR  
LOCAL AGRICULTURAL EASEMENT PURCHASE PROGRAM**

REYNOLDSBURG, OH (Nov. 09, 2016) – The Ohio Department of Agriculture today announced that nine land trusts, four counties, one township and 11 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 \$8,000,000 will be made available in this funding round. Local sponsors have been certified to accept applications in 58 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, 380 family farms in 55 counties have collectively preserved more than 63,000 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 2017 funding round of the LAEPP.



*Serving Farmers and Protecting Consumers Since 1846*

Ohio Department of Agriculture  
Office of Farmland Preservation  
Clean Ohio Fund  
2017 Local Agricultural Easement Purchase Program (LAEPP)  
Local Sponsor Certification Funding Summary

Local Sponsor	# of Counties Applied	Counties Applied			LAEPP Award
Appalachia Ohio Alliance	6	Athens	Franklin	Hocking	\$ 268,330
		Pickaway	Ross	Vinton	
Belmont County SWCD	1	Belmont			\$ 129,702
Black Swamp Conservancy	6	Fulton	Hancock	Lucas	\$ 613,396
		Sandusky	Seneca	Wood	
Cardinal Land Conservancy	6	Adams	Brown	Clermont	\$ 287,981
		Clinton	Hamilton	Highland	
Champaign County SWCD	1	Champaign			\$ 259,697
Darke County SWCD	1	Darke			\$ 291,749
Delaware County Commissioners	1	Delaware			\$ 301,493
Fairfield County Commissioners	1	Fairfield			\$ 455,055
Fayette County SWCD	1	Fayette			\$ 340,445
Geauga County Commissioners	1	Geauga			\$ 161,899
Lake County SWCD	1	Lake			\$ 181,051
Licking County SWCD	1	Licking			\$ 403,683
Logan County Land Trust	2	Champaign	Logan		\$ 311,543
Madison County Commissioners	1	Madison			\$ 515,363
Marion County SWCD	1	Marion			\$ 299,114
Miami County SWCD	1	Miami			\$ 263,784
Montgomery County SWCD	1	Montgomery			\$ 272,227
Munson Twp - Geauga County	1	Geauga			\$ 153,921
Muskingum County SWCD	1	Muskingum			\$ 154,842
Philander Chase - Owl Creek Conservancy	1	Knox			\$ 264,505
Tecumseh Land Trust	2	Clark	Greene		\$ 504,833
Three Valley Conservation Trust	2	Butler	Preble		\$ 496,854
Warren County SWCD	1	Warren			\$ 203,859
West Central Ohio Land Conservancy	1	Allen			\$ 500,635
Western Reserve Land Conservancy	20	Ashland	Ashtabula	Carroll	\$ 364,039
		Columbiana	Erie	Geauga	
		Holmes	Huron	Jefferson	
		Lake	Lorain	Mahoning	
		Medina	Portage	Richland	
		Stark	Summit	Trumbull	
		Tuscarawas	Wayne		

Total Local Sponsors: 25

Total Individual Counties: 58

\$ 8,000,000  
100%

Potential USDA - Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) - Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP-ALE - formerly FRPP)  
Funding - Average award 2013-2016 = \$2.7 million/year