



COUNTY OF LEHIGH

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Press Release

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Lehigh County Farmland Preservation Update

October is Farmland Preservation Month in Lehigh County

Lehigh County, PA- The month of October is Farmland Preservation Month in Lehigh County. As of October 20, 2021, Lehigh County preserved 371 farms with an overall total of 26,191 acres. Currently, 13 more farms are in the preservation process and an estimated 1,212 acres is expected to be preserved by the end of 2022. 44 more farms are on the waiting list to be considered by the Sterling Raber Agriculture Preservation Board of Lehigh County.

Applications for farmland preservation are accepted year-round, and will be reviewed starting July 1, 2022. In order to qualify, a farm is required to be active and forego any development rights while maintaining the property for farming.

The County of Lehigh would like to thank the following municipalities for contributing funds to multiple farms throughout Lehigh County in order to ensure preservation efforts:

- Upper Milford Township
- Upper Macungie Township
- Lower Macungie Township
- Upper Saucon Township
- Lower Milford Township
- Weisenberg Township
- North Whitehall Township

Agriculture remains one of the leading industries in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and in Lehigh County. Lehigh County is among one of the highest ranked counties in the Commonwealth—the leading state in farmland preservation in the United States of America. Currently, the county is ranked #4 in total farms preserved and #5 in overall acreage preserved out of 67 counties. Over 75% of farms that were preserved are 50 acres or larger.

On Wednesday, October 14th, 2020, the Sterling Raber Agriculture Preservation Board of Lehigh County and the Lehigh County Board of Commissioners commemorated Lehigh County as it reached over 25,000 acres in farmland preservation. This landmark achievement marked Lehigh County as one of the leading counties in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to achieve a high acreage in farmland preservation. It is through the Sterling Raber Agriculture Board of Lehigh County that farmland preservation is prevalent and of the highest priority in Lehigh County, instating the month of October as Farmland Preservation Month.

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