

Lehigh County Agricultural Conservation Easement Application Form

For assistance in completing this application call:

Diane Matthews-Gehringer , Director of Farmland Preservation, at (610) 336-5680 or email:
dianematthews-gehringer@lehighcounty.org

I. GENERAL INFORMATION (Please Print clearly, use Middle Initials)

Name _____

Name _____

Address _____

(Street)

(City)

(State)

(Zip Code)

(Farm Address, if different from above)

Home phone: _____ Cell: _____ Email address: _____

(Please include best times to reach) _____

Contact to View Farmland Tract: _____ Home phone: _____

Contact cell phone: _____ Contact email address: _____

II. FARM INFORMATION

County: Lehigh Township(s): _____ Acreage of Farm _____

Total Acreage Offered for Preservation _____

Name of Agricultural Security Area (ASA) _____

ASA Recording Date (s) & Instrument #(s) or Volume & Page #(s) _____

Applied for Agricultural Security? YES _____ NO _____

Deed reference(s): Volume _____ Page _____ Volume _____ Page _____

and/or Instrument Number(s) _____

Tax parcel #(s): Number _____ Acreage _____

Number _____ Acreage _____

Number _____ Acreage _____

Number _____ Acreage _____

Directions to farm from nearest State Route _____

Are you a member of the County Agricultural Land Preservation Board? _____

III. Crop Production Information - Report for crop year _____

Crop production information for the most recent crop year.

<u>Commodity</u>	<u>Acres Grown</u>	<u>Average Yield</u>
------------------	--------------------	----------------------

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

IV. Livestock Report - Report for calendar year _____

<u>Livestock</u>	<u>Average Numbers</u>	<u>Product Sold</u>	<u>Number Sold</u>
------------------	------------------------	---------------------	--------------------

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

V. Conservation Plan - Date of Conservation Plan _____

Who is farming the property and what conservation practices are currently in use?

To have a conservation plan prepared free of charge, call Diane Matthews-Gehring, Director of Farmland Preservation 610-336-5680 or email dianematthews-gehringer@lehighcounty.org

VI. MORTGAGES, LIENS AND MINERAL RIGHTS - Please list all mortgagees, lienholders, or owners of mineral rights for the farmland tract. **You MUST inform any of the below parties of your intention to preserve your property. Lender approvals will be required.**

Mortgagees: _____

Line of Credit or Home Equity Loans: _____

Support Orders: _____

Lienholders: _____

Judgements: _____

Mineral Rights: _____

VII. MAPS - The Farmland Preservation Office will provide the following maps as part of this application:

1. Location map - A United States Geographical Survey Topographical Map showing the location and approximate boundaries of the farmland tract.
2. Tax map - Tax map(s) of the farmland tract with map reference and tax parcel numbers clearly indicated.
3. Soils map - The soils map of the farmland tract must be color coded as follows:
Soil Capability Classes: I – Green, II - Yellow, III - Red, IV - Blue

VIII. SOILS REPORT - The Farmland Preservation Office will provide a soils report and a written description of each soil type including the soil capability classes for the farmland tract as part of the application.

IX. DO YOU WANT TO RETAIN YOUR RIGHT TO CONSTRUCT AN ADDITIONAL RESIDENCE ON YOUR PROPERTY?

Giving up this right may increase the amount of money you will receive if you sell an agricultural conservation easement, but you (and all future owners of your farm), WILL NOT be able to construct an additional residence for a family member or farm employee. Before the recent law change, this right was automatically retained by owners of preserved farms. If your farm is selected for preservation, you must decide whether or not you wish to retain this right prior to having your farm appraised by the county farmland preservation program.

_____ Yes, I/we want to keep our right to construct an additional residence on our farm if our property is selected for preservation.

_____ I/we would like to learn more about this option.

X. Bargain Sale Option

A bargain sale occurs when an applicant sells an agricultural conservation easement for less than the appraised value of the conservation easement. Doing a bargain sale will increase your LESA (ranking) score and may improve your position on the farmland preservation waiting list. Bargain sales are voluntary and **may** allow you to claim an income tax deduction (consult with your tax advisor).

_____ Yes, I/we want to talk to the Farmland Preservation staff about the Bargain Sale Option.

_____ No, I/we do not want to consider the Bargain Sale Option.

IX. SIGNATURE(S) It is necessary for all farmland owners, including Trustees if in a Trust or members of a Partnership, to give their approval and consent to this application.

I also hereby authorize the Conservation Plan preparer to release copies of the Conservation Plan and Nutrient Management Plan (Act 38, if applicable), to the County Agricultural Land Preservation Board and the Bureau of Farmland Preservation as required under Act 43 criteria for easement purchase.

Signed _____ Date _____

Signed _____ Date _____

Signed _____ Date _____

Signed _____ Date _____

Please use complete legal name(s) with any middle initials

Please submit this application to: Lehigh County Farmland Preservation Office
Cedar Village Apartment Building
4234 Dorney Park Road, Suite #2, Allentown, PA 18104