



LAND PARTNERSHIPS



Farmland, West Pennsboro Township

Introduction

Cumberland County's fertile soils have long supported the County's working farms that provide quality foods and feeds, enhance the local economy, protect important landscapes that provide wildlife habitat and maintain scenic, cultural, and historic resources. Agricultural preservation is an important investment in our economy, our environment and the overall quality of life for all residents of the County. The soils that support the Cumberland County agriculture are literally irreplaceable. This chapter will identify the County's agricultural resources, describe the various farmland preservation programs in the county, and discuss the trends and challenges facing the agriculture industry. Lastly, the chapter provides strategies for agricultural preservation and methods to keep the agriculture industry viable in light of recent trends and challenges.

Benefits of Agricultural Preservation

Preservation of Cumberland County's best working farmland benefits the agricultural community by securing the land base that is required to sustain agriculture operations and produce food. In today's marketplace, large clusters of farmland are needed to create a long-term business environment for farm operations. Similarly, agriculture support businesses will locate in and around these large agricultural areas that sustain a meaningful customer base. Uncertain, conflicting land use patterns have the potential to discourage investment and expansion of both farms and agricultural support businesses. Farmland protection focuses on creating a favorable long-term business environment for agriculture, similar to what communities do for other commercial and industrial businesses.

In addition to the benefits farmland preservation provides farmers and the agricultural community, farmland preservation provides economic, scenic and environmental benefits to all residents throughout the County¹:

- **Protecting local farmland helps keep property taxes down.** Working farms do not generate needs for public services such as public sewer/water, fire/police protection or other infrastructure investments. For every dollar a farm family pays in property taxes, they use less than a dollar in public services. Residential property owners' use more than a dollar's worth of services for every dollar in property taxes paid².



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- **Local farms provide fresh food at a reasonable cost.** Locally produced food is more nutritious and less costly. Transportation and environmental costs are high for foods that are imported from distant regions and other countries. The average distance that food travels from farm to plate is 1,500 miles.
- **Well-managed farms benefit the environment.** Farms enrolled in the farmland preservation program are managed by private landowners using sound soil and water conservation practices that protect soil from erosion and also protect local surface waters from contamination. Open farmlands are important for the recharge of ground water in our communities. Farms also provide habitat for local wildlife populations.
- **Preserved farmland protects rural character and promotes local tourism.** Local scenic landscapes are important for attracting visitors and for keeping the quality of life high for local citizens.
- **Local farm businesses support the local economy.** Productive farms employ managers, farm laborers, accountants, feed & fertilizer consultants, veterinarians and agricultural equipment suppliers. Farms also provide the raw materials for food processing plants, restaurants and grocery stores.

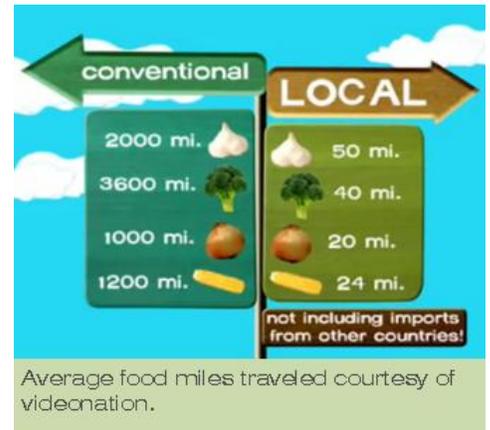
Agricultural Resources

Soils

Cumberland County contains some of the finest agricultural land in Pennsylvania and the United States. The quality of the soil and protection of the best soils is critical for the future of agriculture. Prime Farmland, defined as Class I and Class II soils, encompasses approximately 39 percent of the County or 136,700 acres³. USDA has classified Class III soils in Pennsylvania as “soils of statewide importance” due to their productive capabilities. Cumberland County has nearly 78,000 acres⁴ (22 percent) of Class III soils. In total, over 60 percent of Cumberland County contains productive soils (Class I-III). Soil quality is illustrated on the Prime Soils & Soils of Statewide Importance Map (Map 5-1).

Land Use

Land use data from the National Resources Inventory⁵ (NRI) indicate a continued conversion of farmland to non-agricultural uses on both the national and statewide levels. On the positive side, data indicates that the rate of farmland conversion has declined. In Pennsylvania, between 1997 and 2002, over 115,000 acres of farmland was converted to other uses. Between 2002 and 2007, approximately 81,200 acres of farmland was converted to another use. This represents a 30 percent decrease in the pace of farmland conversion.



USDA Soil Capability Classes

- Class I Soils have few limitations that restrict their use.
- Class II Soils have moderate limitations that reduce the choice of plants or require moderate conservation practices.
- Class III Soils have severe limitations that reduce the choice of plants or require special conservation practices, or both.
- Class IV Soils have very severe limitations that reduce the choice of plants or that require very careful management, or both.
- Class V-VIII Soils have limitations so severe that make them generally unsuitable for cultivation.

Source: Soil Survey of Cumberland and Perry Counties, Pennsylvania
US Department of Agriculture, Soil

Cumberland County experienced significant farmland conversion beginning in the 1940's and extending through the 1990's. Between 1940 and 2002, nearly 90,000 acres (or 25 percent) of the County was converted from farmland to another use. County level data from the US Census of Agriculture indicates that farmland conversion in Cumberland County is stabilizing. The acres of land in agriculture remained relatively stable during the 1992, 1997 and 2002 reporting periods. In 2007, the US Census of Agriculture reported an increase in farms and land in farming in Cumberland County, with approximately 1,550 farms covering 156,000 acres of farmland. Table 5-1 provides historical data on land in farms, number of farms and average farm size.

The data from the National Resources Inventory and US Census of Agriculture may seem contradictory at first. The 2007 NRI reports decreases in farmland while 2007 US Census of Agriculture reports increased land in farming. Both are possible. Increases in land in farms may be caused by the creation of new farms, expansion of farms into previously un-utilized land and/or the inclusion of non-traditional farms that were previously not classified as a farm⁶.

Year	Land in Farms (Acres)	Percent Change	Number of Farms	Percent Change	Average Farm Size (Acres)
1930	237,983		2,932		81
1935	244,097	3%	3,032	3%	81
1940	231,609	-5%	2,809	-7%	83
1945	230,736	0%	2,562	-9%	90
1954	227,111	-2%	2,325	-9%	98
1959	204,239	-10%	1,873	-19%	109
1964	193,187	-5%	1,595	-15%	121
1969	164,302	-15%	1,314	-18%	125
1974	151,344	-8%	1,100	-16%	133
1978	163,826	8%	1,138	3%	144
1982	163,186	0%	1,174	3%	139
1987	153,746	-6%	1,100	-6%	140
1992	141,919	-8%	940	-15%	151
1997	143,163	1%	970	3%	148
2002	143,159	0%	1,116	15%	128
2007	157,388	10%	1,550	39%	102
2010*	156,000	-1%	1,549	0%	101

Source: US Census of Agriculture – Cumberland County Summary Highlights
*PA Agricultural Statistics 2010-2011, derived from 2007 US Census of Ag



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Farm Characteristics

Data from the 2007 US Census of Agriculture indicates that farming in Cumberland County is changing. Tables 5-1 and Table 5-2 provide additional details on Farm Characteristics including number of farms, farm size and farms by value of sales. The number of farms in the County is increasing while the average farm size is steadily decreasing. Additionally, the median size of a farm has decreased dramatically (by 53 percent) between 2002 and 2007. Both the number of farms, sized 10-49 acres, and farms generating less than \$2,500, has more than tripled in the past 10 years. These numbers suggest a trend towards smaller sized farms, part time operations, hobby farms and non-traditional agricultural enterprises.

	1997	2002	2007
Number of Farms	970	1116	1550
Land in Farms	143,163	143,159	157,388
Average Size of Farm	148	128	102
Median Size of Farm	100	97	45
Farms by Size	1997	2002	2007
1 to 9 acres	90	118	130
10-49 acres	217	306	676
50-179 acres	433	468	531
180-499 acres	182	173	158
500-999 acres	37	43	44
1000+ acres	11	8	11
Farms by value of sales	1997	2002	2007
Less than \$2,500	176	350	662
\$2,500-\$4,999	81	116	132
\$5,000-\$9,999	114	100	122
\$10,000-\$24,999	146	122	163
\$25,000-\$49,999	102	77	119
\$50,000-\$99,999	109	71	77
\$100,000+	242	280	275

Source: US Census of Agriculture, 1997-2007

A Maine study indicates that shifting just 1% of consumer expenditures to direct purchasing of local food products could increase farmers' income in that state by as much as 5%.⁷

Economic Impact

Agriculture continues to be a leading industry in Pennsylvania and the County. Cumberland County ranks eighth (up from tenth place in 2002) in the state for total agricultural products sold. The 2007 USDA statistics listed the market value of agricultural products sold from Cumberland County at \$132,803,000. The sale of livestock and

livestock products accounts for 80 percent of the total market value. Leading products include milk/dairy products, cattle and poultry/eggs. The remaining 20 percent comes from crop sales. Leading crop sales include grains/beans, nursery products, hay and vegetables. Cumberland County ranks fifth in the state for cattle and calves and seventh in the state for milk production. The County ranks in the top ten statewide for several crops including wheat, corn, barley, soybeans, hay and apples.

Benefits of Locally Produced Food

- Health – Locally sourced food is more nutritious and less prone to contamination.
- Environmental Benefits – Less transport distance = less energy use.
- Food Safety – Farmers are accountable and identifiable.
- Food Security – Local food supply chains help to minimize outside transportation disruptions from natural disasters, etc.
- Economic Benefits – Money spent in the community stays in the community.
- Educational Opportunities – Most children do not understand the importance of eating fresh foods or know where their food comes from
- Flavor – Fresh food tastes better.
- Peace of Mind – People feel better when they know where their food comes from; understand cultivation methods and distance transported.
- Community Building – Farmers and families develop direct connections.

Trends in Agriculture

Local Food Production and Consumption

Food and food production is increasingly seen as a key environmental issue affecting the quality of air, soil and water. These issues are coalescing under food and the environment and also between healthy eating and disease prevention. Food production and distribution is thought by many to become an increasingly important issue worldwide, since production and distribution is predicted to become increasingly marginal as the rapid rate of population growth and climate change affects crops, arable land and the ability to equitably distribute food. Locally produced food using sustainable methods can help improve all these issues.

In addition to the environmental and health benefits, local food production strengthens the local economy. There is an increasing need for locally produced foods to supply a growing industry of farmers markets, healthy restaurants and associated fresh food businesses. Increased demand will diversify the types of local foods produced and consumed. This variety of fresh foods presents new and expanded business opportunities for local farmers, producers, and retailers already experiencing increased demand for these products.

Stronger prices are realized as consumers factor in the many health, environmental and economic benefits of fresh local foods. In Cumberland County, higher profit margins could be realized due to advantages of convenient highway access and close proximity to major metropolitan markets. Local foods help maintain viability in the agriculture industry by providing a counterbalance to recent trends of decreasing farm size by using local foods to diversify and supplement farm income with less available land.



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Urban Agriculture

In addition to purchasing and consuming local food from commercial operators, there is a strong trend toward agricultural pursuits in urban environments. From community gardens to raising chickens and bees in your backyard, agriculture too has a place in developed communities. With the pursuits, there also is a set of new challenges for public officials. Zoning and land development regulations must be updated in order to accommodate these uses while still protecting the property rights and ensuring the health and safety of the community.

Tools for Agricultural Preservation – Acquisition & Development

Acquisition of agricultural conservation easements is the most commonly recognized tool for agricultural preservation. Preservation of farmland through the purchase of agricultural conservation easements provides numerous benefits to the individual farmer. The following aspects make farmland preservation attractive to farmers:

- The landowner can access a portion of the land equity while still maintaining ownership and agricultural use of the land without having to sell it for development or non-farm uses.
- Cash from the sale of the development rights can be used for reducing debt, lowering operating costs, improving or expanding farm operations, investing in value-added agriculture initiatives, retirement, or be passed on to heirs with proper estate planning.
- Proceeds from easement sales are often recycled back into the local economy, supporting agribusiness and creating additional economic development.
- Property taxes are based only on the agricultural value of the land rather than the full developmental value, reducing the tax burden on farmers and enhancing the annual bottom line and overall profitability.
- Preserved farmland is more affordable for younger farmers and eases the transfer of property to future generations and other farmers who are interested in farming. Expanding farming operations is often not an option when competing with developmental values.

Pennsylvania Agricultural Conservation Easement Program

The Agricultural Conservation Easement (ACE) Program is a County administered State program that provides a mechanism for purchasing agricultural conservation easements from willing landowners in Agricultural Security Areas. Federal, State, County, Local funds and non-profit funds can be used to purchase agricultural conservation easements. The landowner maintains



ownership of the land and can continue to farm it but cannot convert the land to non-agricultural use. The agricultural conservation easement is held in perpetuity and provides permanent protection of farmland. Additionally, the landowner benefits from the money generated from the sale of the easement. The Agriculture Lands Map (Map 5-2) illustrates farmland parcels that have been permanently protected through agricultural easements and those parcels enrolled in the Agriculture Security Area Program.

The Agricultural Land Preservation Board, in coordination with the Cumberland County Planning Commission, has developed an Agricultural Preservation Planning Map (Map 5-2) which identifies priority areas (Agriculture-Prime Farmland Area and Agriculture-Rural Area) for future agricultural conservation easements. The priority areas are based on the Future Land Use Map contained in the County Comprehensive Plan and are defined below:



- The *Agriculture-Prime Farmland Area* generally consists of land defined as prime farmland by the USDA. It is largely located between the Conodoguinet and Yellow Breeches Creeks in regions containing limestone geology. It includes Class I and Class II soils which are defined as having few to moderate limitations that restrict their use for cultivation.
- The *Agricultural-Rural Area* preserves the rural landscapes that reflect the agricultural history of the county. Most of this area is located north of the Conodoguinet Creek in areas that, for the most part, do not contain prime farmland soils; but do include soils classified as having statewide importance.

Interest in the ACE program remains very high. Annual demand for the program far exceeds funding available for the program. For 2013, there are 52 applications totaling over 6,000 acres of farmland. In a typical year, three to five farms are preserved. The size of the application backlog is not decreasing as each year new applications are received to replace the farms that are preserved. Since the ACE Program's inception in 1989, 15,775 acres (~10 percent) of Cumberland County farmland have been preserved. In total, nearly \$42,000,000 in State, County, Federal and Local dollars have been invested in agricultural preservation in Cumberland County. Table 5-3 provides a summary of preserved farmland in Cumberland County by municipality.



Municipality	Acres Preserved
Dickinson Township	2,092
Middlesex Township	378
Monroe Township	1,905
North Middleton Township	248
North Newton Township	608
Penn Township	3,353
Shippensburg Township	84
Silver Spring Township	128
South Middleton Township	1,395
South Newton	193
Southampton Township	2,247
Upper Allen Township	300
West Pennsboro Township	2,844
Total Countywide	15,775
Total Cost	\$41.7 M

ACE Program - Statewide/Regional Comparison

Of the 67 counties in Pennsylvania, 58 participate in the ACE program. As of December 2012, 470,155 acres of farmland are permanently protected statewide through 4,364 easements. Cumberland County ranks 9th in the state for total acres of farmland preserved.

Table 5-4 provides a summary of preserved farmland, percent of farmland preserved and statewide rank for the south-central PA region. Cumberland County ranks 6th in the region for total acres preserved and for percent of farmland preserved. Percent of farmland preserved provides a more reasonable county-by-county comparison, as the agricultural nature and county size can vary greatly throughout the region. Cumberland County appears marginally deficient over the other leading agricultural producing counties in the south-central PA region for amount of farmland preserved.

Farmland Preservation Statewide 1989-2012

- PA is #1 in the nation for total acres of farmland preserved
- 470,155 acres of farmland are permanently protected statewide through 4,364 easements
- Total program investment \$1.2 Billion

Source: Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, December 2012.

Table 5-4

Table 5-4 Farmland Preservation Comparison - South Central PA Region, 2012*

County	Number of Preserved Farms	Number of Acres Preserved	Land in Farms (acres)	% of Land in Farms Preserved	State Rank, Value of Ag Products Sold
Dauphin	142	14,060	89,000	15.8%	21
Lebanon	143	16,877	113,000	14.9%	5
Lancaster	714	62,172	423,000	14.7%	1
York	246	38,374	290,000	13.2%	7
Adams	146	19,900	173,000	11.5%	6
Cumberland	125	15,199	156,000	9.7%	8
Schuylkill	94	10,100	118,000	8.6%	9
Franklin	118	15,600	241,000	6.5%	4
Perry	48	7,815	143,000	5.5%	13
Snyder	21	2,320	99,000	2.3%	12
Juniata	17	2,245	97,000	2.3%	15
Mifflin	19	2,137	93,000	2.3%	18
Northumberland	17	2,018	147,000	1.4%	11
Huntingdon	6	691	147,000	0.5%	27

** Farms preserved through State ACE program and approved by the State Board as of December 2012*

ACE Administration

The Cumberland County ACE Program will reach a milestone of 25 years in 2014. The Program has experienced many successes, but continues to challenge the Agricultural Land Preservation Board and staff. The following issues have been identified through the planning process and should be addressed in program implementation going forward:

- *Stewardship* - New landowners and next generation preserved farm owners are further removed from the original easement transaction, which can present challenges for stewardship and compliance with the terms of the conservation easement. The potential for enforcement actions and litigation is increasing.
- *Environmental Regulations* - More stringent regulations are in place for conservation planning, erosion and sediment control and nutrient management for agricultural operations, which must be implemented by preserved farm owners to ensure soil productivity and water quality for the County.
- *Rural Enterprises* - In order to remain economically viable, many farmers are seeking to establish rural enterprises on preserved farms. These enterprises must be accomplished in a manner that protects the values of easement, but affords farmers some flexibility.



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- *Program Guidelines* - As the agriculture industry and economic environment changes, guidelines and ranking systems for the Program must evolve to respond to these changes.
- *Funding* - Program funding is becoming increasingly limited and uncertain. Administrators must continually seek out creative resources and partnerships to maximize available funding.

Clean and Green Program

Clean and Green is a preferential tax program which provides landowners tax relief for agreeing to keep their properties in agricultural production, forestland or open space. For farmers, the program allows a differential property assessment based on the value of productive farmland, not development potential. Participation in the Clean and Green Program does not permanently preserve farmland, but rather provides the landowner with tax benefits through lower assessments which can help to keep farming economically viable. Landowners must have at least 10 acres of farmland to participate. In 2013, there were 166,464 acres (46 percent of County) enrolled in the Clean and Green Program.

Tools for Agricultural Preservation - Planning

Agricultural Preservation goals cannot be achieved only through implementation of easement programs. It would be impractical and financially unfeasible to assume that County or local governments could purchase easements on adequate acres of farmland to protect the industry and heritage of the County. Land use planning is an important tool to protect agriculture and establish a balance with development opportunities.

Municipal Planning Code

The Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code (MPC) is intended to empower local municipalities to preserve and regulate agricultural land uses. The comprehensive plan and zoning ordinance are the primary land use tools utilized.

Article III, Section 301 of the MPC specifies that County and Municipal Comprehensive Plans shall provide a plan for the protection of prime agricultural land. Further, Section 301 specifically requires that County Comprehensive Plans “identify a plan for the preservation and enhancement of prime agricultural land and encourage the compatibility of land use regulation with existing agricultural operations.” A plan for protection should include establishing goals and objectives for preservation of prime farmland and identifying areas of prime farmland on a future land use map where agriculture is desired.



Conducting periodic reviews and updates to municipal comprehensive plans is the foundation to successful planning. The MPC recommends municipalities review adopted comprehensive plans at least every 10 years.

The Zoning Ordinance is a planning tool to establish the location, amount and type of agriculture desired in a municipality. Agriculture is dependent on the quality of the soil; therefore zoning districts should be established in areas with the most productive soils. Effective agricultural districts limit the amount of conflicting non-agricultural development, protect the right to farm, and allow for related accessory uses that supplement farm income.

Zoning ordinances should be based upon the sound policy guidance reflected in the comprehensive plan. The MPC requires that zoning ordinances and comprehensive plans are “generally consistent”. Thus, as comprehensive plans are amended, municipalities should review zoning ordinances to ensure the mandated consistency of the two planning documents.



Agricultural Security Area Program

The Agricultural Security Area (ASA) Program promotes farming and protects the right to farm by providing farmers with the following benefits:

- *Limited protection from local regulations* - Local governments may not unreasonably restrict farming operations and farm structures. Local governments shall provide exceptions for normal agricultural activities within ASA's when defining public nuisances.
- *Limited protection from condemnation of land* - The power of state and local agencies to exercise eminent domain over productive farmland in an ASA is limited. Any condemnation of farmland within an ASA must be reviewed by the Agricultural Land Condemnation Approval Board and show that the proposed condemnation would not have an unreasonable adverse effect upon the preservation and enhancement of agriculture or municipal resources within the area; or that there is no reasonable or prudent alternative to utilizing the lands within the ASA.
- *Eligibility for agricultural conservation easements* - Landowners enrolled in ASA's are eligible to participate in the state ACE program.



Parcels enrolled in the ASA program receive no permanent protection from development and can be developed for non-agriculture uses with no penalty to the landowner. Approximately 73,300 acres of land (21 percent of the County) are enrolled in the program. Table 5-5 provides a summary of ASA's by municipality.

In addition to comprehensive planning and zoning ordinances, the ASA program is an important planning tool to protect the agriculture industry. Historically, implementation of the ASA program has been challenging at the municipal level. Administration of the Program tends to be cumbersome, which has led to poor tracking and management of enrollment. Additionally, since the program does not offer permanent protections or allow for recoup of administrative costs, the importance of the program has been diminished or misunderstood. From a County level perspective, the most important role of the ASA program is in establishing eligibility for the ACE program. From the farmer's perspective, the ASA program is integral to protecting the landowner's right to farm.

Importance of Agriculture Industry

- Agriculture is considered Pennsylvania's number one industry
- 1 of every 5 jobs in Pennsylvania is agriculturally related
- In 2007, the total value of Pennsylvania's agriculture industry was \$5.8 billion
- In 2007, the total value of Cumberland County's agricultural sales was nearly \$133 million
- Dairy is a leading agribusiness in Cumberland, including a herd of over 16,800 milking cows with a total milk production value of \$58 million

Municipality	Parcels	Acres
Dickinson	71	4,762
Hopewell	47	2,859
Lower Frankford	40	2,571
Lower Mifflin	91	5,423
Middlesex	55	2,510
Monroe	96	3,976
North Middleton	25	2,137
North Newton	56	5,065
Penn	119	6,664
Silver Spring	39	1,717
Southampton	150	10,580
South Middleton	89	5,027
South Newton	11	962
Upper Allen	19	970
Upper Frankford	101	6,296
Upper Mifflin	51	3,413
West Pennsboro	122	8,324
TOTAL	1,182	73,256

Tools for Agricultural Preservation – Partnerships & Education

Partnerships and education are also critical to agricultural preservation. Education is essential to any successful program and partnerships on complementary programs help advance mutual goals.

Cumberland County Partners for Excellence in Agriculture

In 2010, the Cumberland County Partners for Excellence in Agriculture (Ag Partners) officially formed. The mission of the Ag Partners is to assure that the agricultural industry in Cumberland County continues to be a major contributor to the economic development of the County and maintains a competitive position in the global economy while conserving and respecting the natural resources in the area.



Stakeholders in the Cumberland County Partners for Excellence in Agriculture include production agriculture as well as the businesses, educational institutions, governmental and community organizations and individuals that support the success of agriculture in the County. The coalition meets on a quarterly basis and coordination for the Ag Partners is provided by the Cumberland County Planning Department.

The Ag Partners have adopted these three key objectives: 1) Preserving Farmland and the Environment 2) Retaining and Expanding the Agricultural Industry 3) Connecting Consumers and the Public with Agriculture.

Stakeholders in Agriculture

There are a variety of agricultural stakeholders that support agricultural preservation objectives and advance common goals. Table 5-6 lists stakeholders for agricultural preservation and highlights their focus areas.



**Table 5-6
Stakeholders and Focus Areas for Agricultural Preservation**

Stakeholders	Program/Initiative
Audubon PA http://pa.audubon.org/	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preservation of birding habitat
Appalachian Trail Conservancy www.appalachiantrail.org	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Viewshed protection to Appalachian Trail
Capital Area Resource Conservation & Development Council www.capitalrcd.org	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • South Central PA Buy Fresh, Buy Local
Cumberland Area Economic Development Corporation www.cumberlandbusiness.com	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agriculture business retention and expansion
Cumberland County Farm Bureau www.pfb.com	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Legislation and advocacy
Cumberland County Conservation District www.cumberlandcd.com	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conservation planning and assistance • Nutrient management planning
Cumberland County Tax Assessment Office www.ccpa.net	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clean & Green Program
Cumberland Valley Visitors Bureau www.visitcumberlandvalley.com	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cumberland Valley Local Food, Farm and Outdoor Recreation Guide • Agritourism Promotion
Chesapeake Bay Foundation www.cbf.com	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Riparian Buffer Technical Assistance
Pennsylvania Farmland Preservation Association www.pafarmland.org	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training and advocacy
Pennsylvania Association for Sustainable Agriculture (PASA) www.pasafarming.org	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthens local agriculture, food systems and economy by fostering an educational support system for farmers interested in non-traditional agricultural practices and consumers looking for fresh, locally and sustainably produced food
Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture www.agriculture.state.pa.us	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ACE Program • ASA Program • Clean & Green Program • PA Preferred Program • Century/Bicentennial Farm Program
Penn State Cooperative Extension www.extension.psu.edu/cumberland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual Farm Tour • 4-H Program • Education
USDA-NRCS www.nrcs.usda.gov	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conservation planning and assistance