



# COMMISSIONERS OF CUMBERLAND COUNTY

---

Vince DiFilippo  
*Chairman*

Jim Hertzler  
*Vice Chairman*

Gary Eichelberger  
*Secretary*

**September 11, 2017**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**MEDIA CONTACT:** Rachel Bryson, Communications Director  
717.706.0001

## *Partnership for Success in Preserving Local Farms*

**Cumberland County, PA** – A recent partnership between Cumberland County and Silver Spring Township was successful in preserving a 113 acre local farm. The crop farm, owned by Ryan and Andrea Brown, is only the second in Cumberland County to be preserved through a joint effort with a local municipality. The first farm, Cala-J Farm, was preserved through a partnership with South Middleton Township.

Silver Spring Township funded 55% of the preservation easement and the County funded the remaining 45%. This partnership opportunity is available through Pennsylvania's Agricultural Conservation Easement Purchase Program. Under the partnership, the County completes the majority of the easement process and the purchase of the easement is shared.

“Through this partnership, we can preserve a greater number of farms and stretch our preservation dollars, as the cost is being shared,” said Stephanie Williams, coordinator of the County's Greenway and Open Space, and Farmland Preservation programs. “We also have provisions that allow us to prioritize a farm and, under certain conditions, move that farm forward on the preservation list, again because the cost is being shared. This is a great partnership between the County and our municipalities and we would love to see more municipalities take advantage of this program.”

The Agricultural Conservation Easement Purchase Program was developed to strengthen Pennsylvania's agricultural economy and to protect prime farmland. The program uses county, state, federal and local funds to pay willing farmers to place certain restrictions upon their land, in order to maintain and permanently preserve high quality, functional farmland. The land continues to be the farmer's private property and the farmer retains all privileges of land ownership, except the ability to sell the land for non-agricultural development or to develop the land for non-agricultural purposes. An agricultural conservation easement is permanent; if a landowner wishes to sell the land, the easement is transferred and the new landowner must continue to use the property exclusively for agriculture.

For more information on Cumberland County's Farmland Preservation Program, visit [www.ccpa.net/farmland](http://www.ccpa.net/farmland).

###