



CUMBERLAND COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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County Ag Board Selects 13 Farms for Preservation

Carlisle, Pa. – The Cumberland County Agricultural Land Preservation Board recently selected 13 farms to enter the County’s farmland preservation program in 2018. The farms amount to a total of 975 acres of prime farmland. Once these farms are through the settlement process, which can take 18-24 months, Cumberland County will have preserved a total of 19,994 acres.

To date, Cumberland County has preserved 18,161 acres of farmland, with 858 acres of 2017 settlements pending. Earlier this year, the Commissioners certified a total of \$607,145 for the program, which leverage \$1,755,271 in state funding.

“We’ve seen incredible success with our farmland preservation program and are excited to be nearing the 20,000 acre milestone,” said Stephanie Williams, manager of the County’s Greenway & Open Space/Farmland Preservation programs. “There are many challenges with being the fastest growing county in Pennsylvania, but we are fortunate to have great partners, an active land preservation board and the support of the Board of Commissioners, all of which help the preservation program to continue to be successful.”

The Agricultural Conservation Easement Purchase Program was developed to strengthen Pennsylvania’s agricultural economy and to protect prime farmland. Using a variety of funding sources, the program pays 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. Learn more about this program at www.ccpa.net/farmland.

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Cumberland County is the fastest growing county in the Commonwealth and offers the perfect mix of small town, suburban and rural living. Established in 1750, Cumberland County consistently maintains one of the lowest tax and unemployment rates in the State, while providing exceptional services for its more than 250,000 residents. More information on Cumberland County can be found at www.ccpa.net.