



## COMMISSIONERS OF CUMBERLAND COUNTY

---

Vince DiFilippo  
*Chairman*

Jim Hertzler  
*Vice Chairman*

Gary Eichelberger  
*Secretary*

**June 18, 2018**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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

### *Cumberland County Ranks 7<sup>th</sup> in PA for Farmland Preservation*

**Carlisle, Pa.** – Cumberland County is seeing great success with its Farmland Preservation program. The County was recently ranked seventh in Pennsylvania for preserved acres. Cumberland County has preserved 18,765 acres across 162 farms. The [Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture](#) announced the county rankings earlier this month, indicating the number of acres preserved, the number of farms and the average purchase price per acre.

“Being in the top 10 is a huge honor and an acknowledgment that Cumberland County’s program is successful,” said Stephanie Williams, manager of the County’s Greenway & Open Space/Farmland Preservation programs. “We’ve worked diligently to maximize the County contribution to the program with state, federal and local dollars, allowing us to preserve more farms than just with County dollars alone. We anticipate that within the next two to three years, we’ll reach and surpass the milestone of preserving 20,000 acres.”

The County currently has about 30 farms on the waiting list for preservation. A total of 12 farms were selected to enter the program in 2018. These farms amount to a total of 965 acres of prime farmland. Once through the settlement process, which can take 18-24 months, Cumberland County will have preserved a total of 19,984 acres.

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.

Cumberland County's Agricultural Land Preservation Board oversees the County's Agriculture Conservation Easement Purchase Program, which works to strengthen Pennsylvania's agricultural economy and protect prime farmland. Using private, local, county, state and federal funds, the program pays willing farmers to place certain restrictions upon their land, permanently preserving the County's high quality, functional farmland. Learn more about this program at [www.ccpa.net/farmland](http://www.ccpa.net/farmland).

# # #

*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 nearly 250,000 residents. More information on Cumberland County can be found at [www.ccpa.net](http://www.ccpa.net).*