



Pennsylvania Farmland Preservation Association

2014/15 Policy Positions

Top Four

- 1. We oppose any proposal that would transfer funds from cigarette tax collections, which are currently dedicated to farmland preservation, to be used for any other purpose.**
- 2. We support amendments to ACT 13, Marcellus Shale Legacy Funds, to provide a dedicated portion of funding to Farmland Preservation.**
- 3. We support the option for counties to charge reasonable fees for administrative services associated with the acquisition, monitoring and enforcement of agricultural conservation easements.**
- 4. We support the option for the owner of a preserved farm or farm proposed for preservation to voluntarily relinquish the right to construct an additional residential structure and/or the right for subdivision.**

Funding

- 1. We oppose any proposal that would transfer funds from cigarette tax collections, which are currently dedicated to farmland preservation, to be used for any other purpose.**
- 2. We support amendments to ACT 13, Marcellus Shale Legacy Funds to provide a dedicated portion of funding to Farmland Preservation.**
- 3. We support the renewal of Growing Greener in Pennsylvania.**
- 4. We support the option for counties to enact other dedicated funding sources through a tax or a fee, with revenues dedicated to preservation of farmland.**
- 5. We support a special farmland preservation registration plate to promote and generate revenue for farmland preservation.**
- 6. We support increased funding through the 2012 Farm Bill to preserve America's farmland as a matter of national security. Protecting farmland is essential to our nation's long-term ability to produce food, fiber and renewable energy.**

Act 43 and Regulations

1. **We support the option for counties to charge reasonable fees for administrative services associated with the acquisition, monitoring and enforcement of agricultural conservation easements.**
2. **We support the option for the owner of a preserved farm or farm proposed for preservation to voluntarily relinquish the right to construct an additional residential structure and/or the right for subdivision.**
3. We support the option for counties to use a portion of their annual state appropriation for costs related to monitoring and enforcement of agricultural conservation easements, including the legal defense of agricultural conservation easements.
4. We oppose the use of preserved farms for recreational trails.
5. We support a revision of the state funding formula to reduce the importance of county realty transfer tax revenue as a factor in a county's annual state allocation.
6. We oppose eliminating required review by the Agricultural Lands Condemnation Approval Board for any proposed condemnation of preserved farmland.
7. We support the option to amend existing agricultural conservation easements by adding additional farmland to the easement for the purpose of increasing the acreage of the preserved farm.
8. We oppose expanding current permissions for oil and gas development and removal of coal by underground mining methods to include energy production by other methods or extraction of other minerals or use of other development or extraction methods.
9. We support the option for counties to reduce the minimum required weight for soil quality in the farmland ranking system from 40 points to 30 points.
10. We oppose easements and other deed restrictions which would restrict the use of preserved farmland for agricultural production and normal farm operations.

Tax Incentives

1. We support making the federal enhanced tax incentive for conservation easement donations permanent.
2. We support permanently exempting farmland from Federal estate taxes as long as the land remains in agriculture.
3. We support the establishment of the Historic Preservation Incentive Program.

Conservation

1. We support the protection of fresh groundwater and the protection of water supplies in the Commonwealth from any activities that compromise water quality or quantity.
2. We support the protection of soils, prime, unique and of statewide importance to the greatest extent attainable, from activities such as the installation or construction of rights of way for sewer, water, oil or natural gas, which would impact the use of the preserved land for agricultural production.
3. We oppose forced pooling of natural gas. Landowners must not be denied the right to oppose the drilling of/for natural gas or other minerals on their land.

Other

1. We support efforts to align and streamline the ALE appraisal requirements with Pennsylvania's established and accepted appraisal requirements to streamline the ALE reimbursement process.
2. We oppose the Family Farm Initiative & Enterprise Land Development Act.
3. We support farm transition education efforts.