

Linking Economic Development & Agricultural Easements

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**LAND USE CONFERENCE
JANUARY 11, 2013
OSU 4-H CENTER**



Linking Agricultural Easements & Economic Development

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Agricultural Easement Purchase Program (AEPP)

- Funded by the Clean Ohio Bond Fund
- Passed by the voters in 2000
- Renewed by voters in all 88 counties in 2008
- Purchases permanent easements on land in agricultural production from willing sellers
- Purpose of the easement: keep land in production and provide a nucleus of permanent farmland which supports other farms & agribusinesses

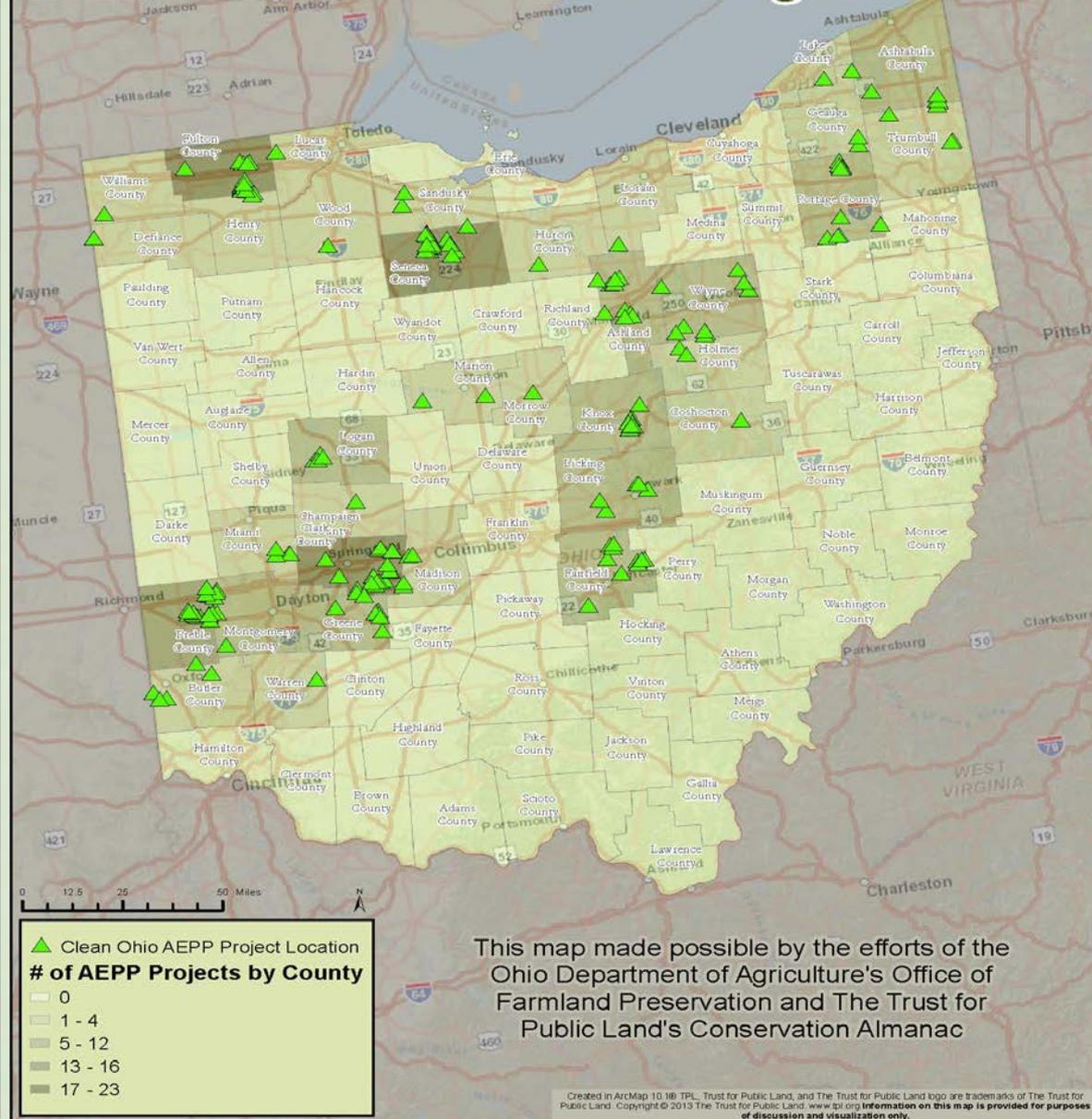
Agricultural Easement Purchase Program

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- Easements are monitored annually
- Easements are recorded and run with the property
- If a new owner purchases the farm they must comply with the provisions of the easement
- Easements are enforced on behalf of Federal, State and Local Sponsors who purchased them



Clean Ohio Agricultural Easement Purchase Program



This map made possible by the efforts of the Ohio Department of Agriculture's Office of Farmland Preservation and The Trust for Public Land's Conservation Almanac

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- **AEPP Statewide program (2002-2011)**

Awarded points for communities that had

- Created Agricultural Security Areas (ASAs)
- Set aside farmland in adopted Land Use Plans*
- Zoned land for agricultural production
- Budgeted for administering an agricultural easement program

*includes Balanced Growth Plans



- **New Localized AEPP Program for 2013**
Transfers easements selection to Local Sponsors

Local Sponsors: Counties, townships, cities, Soil & Water Conservation Districts and Land Trusts

Points are again awarded for counties with

- ASAs
- Land Use Plans or Balanced Growth Plans that set aside land for agricultural production
- Agricultural Zoning
- Agricultural Economic Development Plans

- While there are other criteria, the Department of Agriculture's position is that if the applicant's community demonstrates that preserving the state's largest industry is important to them, that community is more likely to receive AEPP funds.



Landowners Invest in their Communities

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AEPP is essentially an economic development program for medium sized farms

Easement proceeds can be spent for any legal purpose:

- Additional fields
- New equipment
- New buildings
- Expand operations
- Pay off debt
- Purchase an annuity



Food & Agriculture Ohio's #1 Industry

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- #1 in Swiss Cheese production in US
- #2 in egg production (7 billion annually)
- #3 in production of soft drinks, beer & spirits
- Top five in bakery, dairy, snacks & spice processing
- Largest yogurt plant (Wayne County)
- Home to 1000+ food processing companies



Value of food products shipped: \$24 Billion*

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- Governor Kasich has identified expanding the state's Food Processing industry as one of his top job growth strategies. <http://jobs-ohio.com/food/>
- Is this a priority in your county's comprehensive plan?



*2011: Includes food & beverages

photo courtesy of Art Weber & Black Swamp Conservancy



Ohio Proud Program

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- Ohio Proud is the state's domestic marketing program
- Promotes Ohio food and agricultural products
- Ohio Proud logo helps consumers identify foods grown or made in Ohio.
- Supports state's goal to provide safe, local foods to consumers and create new opportunities for Ohio growers, producers and processors.
- <http://www.agri.ohio.gov/divs/FarmLand/FarmLand.aspx>

Contact Information

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