

## **2019 Butler County Farmland Preservation Program Applications**

Butler County's highly competitive farmland preservation program will accept applications from farm owners for the 2019 easement purchase program from January 1-31, 2019 at the Office of Farmland Preservation within the Butler County Planning Commission, 5th Floor of the Government Center, 124 West Diamond Street, PO Box 1208, Butler, PA 16003. The office is open from 8:30am until 4:30pm Monday through Friday except holidays. Applications will not be accepted after 4:30pm on January 31, 2019 or if postmarked after January 31st. Depending on available funding and applications received, typically between one and three farms are preserved each year. To date, 55 farms with 6,080 acres have been preserved in Butler County.

There are minimum requirements in order for a farm to qualify for this program (more detailed information is available upon request and there are special requirements for farms spanning municipal or county lines). Very basically, the farm must:

1. be located within a recorded municipal Agricultural Security Area (ASA) of at least 500 acres;
- and
2. be at least 50 contiguous acres in size unless adjoining a previously-preserved farm; and
  3. have at least 50% of the soils available for ag production and of USDA Capability Classes I-IV;
- and
4. contain at least 50% (or 10 acres) harvested cropland, pasture or grazing land; and
  5. be in compliance with a current Conservation Plan completed in accordance with the USDA's NRCS requirements.

For more information on this program, please contact the Butler County Farmland Coordinator, Sheryl Kelly, at [skelly@co.butler.pa.us](mailto:skelly@co.butler.pa.us) or phone 724.284.5305. There is also information available on the county web site at [www.co.butler.pa.us](http://www.co.butler.pa.us) under "departments" and "farmland preservation." If you desire to stop in the office to discuss program requirements or get more information please call or email ahead of time to make an appointment.

### ***Butler County Office of Farmland Preservation and Butler County Department of Recycling & Waste Management***

***Sheryl Kelly, C.R.P., Environmental Specialist, Recycling & Farmland Coordinator  
5<sup>th</sup> Floor, 124 West Diamond St. PO Box 1208, Butler, PA 16003  
Phone 724.284.5305 - Email [skelly@co.butler.pa.us](mailto:skelly@co.butler.pa.us) - Web [www.recyclebutler.us](http://www.recyclebutler.us)***