



Cumberland County Board of Commissioners

Gary Eichelberger, Chairman . Jean Foschi, Vice Chairman . Vincent T. DiFilippo, Secretary

Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Cumberland County Adds 187 Acres of Farmland; Surpassing 200 Farms Preserved Since 1989

Carlisle, PA – The Cumberland County Commissioners, Farmland Preservation Officials and Silver Spring Township Board of Supervisors marked the 200th and 201st preserved Cumberland County Farm in Silver Spring Township. The two crop farms, owned by Tom Moyer are located in Silver Spring Township. The two farms total an additional 187 acres.

The easements are being acquired in partnership with Silver Spring Township, Cumberland County, and the state. Since 2014, the Silver Spring Land Preservation Program has preserved 685 acres in the township. The county and Silver Spring Township have worked together on several farm properties to have them preserved. This cooperation has stretched both county and township dollars while obtaining state matching funds used for conservation easements.

“Since 1989, the county has preserved 201 farms covering 22,120 acres,” said Vince DiFilippo, Cumberland County Commissioner. “Farmland preservation provides our residents with economic, scenic and environmental benefits.”

The preservation of Cumberland County’s best working farmland benefits the agricultural community by securing the land base required to sustain agriculture operations and produce food. In today’s marketplace, large parcels of farmland are needed to create a long-term business environment for farm operations.

The county ranks seventh in the state for preserving farmland, produces more than 220 million in agricultural products; 75 million of which is milk. Farmland preservation protects farms in perpetuity and provides residents with locally sourced fresh produce. Cumberland County has 1,260 farms covering 170,000 acres.

In 2022, Cumberland County selected 1,050 additional acres of farmland; that land is scheduled for preservation in 2023. Farms enrolled in the farmland preservation program are managed by private landowners using sound soil and water conservation practices that protect soil from

erosion and protect local surface waters from contamination. Open farmlands are important for the recharge of ground water in our communities and provide habitat for local wildlife populations.

Agricultural Land Preservation Board: The board was established in 1989 and is responsible for overseeing implementation of the Agricultural Conservation Easement (ACE) Program. The purpose of the ACE Program is to protect viable agricultural lands by acquiring agricultural conservation easements that prevent the development or improvements of land for any purpose other than agricultural production.

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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.

