



Cumberland County Board of Commissioners

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Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Cumberland County Reminds Property Owners to Apply for Homestead/Farmstead Exclusion

Carlisle, PA – Cumberland County homeowners who have not applied for the Homestead/Farmstead Exclusion are encouraged to apply through the Cumberland County Assessment Office. The Homestead/Farmstead program reduces the homeowners school property taxes, and the savings are reflected on their school property tax bill.

Each year, property owners receive a postcard from their school district confirming that they are approved. If residents are not approved, they will receive an application for the Homestead/Farmstead Exclusion, which they can complete and return to the Cumberland County Assessment Office.

“Once you are approved for Homestead/Farmstead, you remain approved until you change your residence or sell the property. It does not expire,” said Cathy Waters, Cumberland County Chief Assessor. “The impact of the Homestead/Farmstead Program is a reduction in your school property taxes. After approval, the reduced amount is shown on your school bill and will not be sent to you in the form of a rebate check.”

Waters adds that filing the application does not guarantee an automatic approval or tax exclusion. Applicants must be the owner of the property and ensure that all information is correct. The county will send out approval letters to applicants in February.

If residents do not get an application, they can pick up the Cumberland County Homestead/Farmstead Exclusion applications at the Cumberland County Assessment office or on the county’s [website](#). Applications must be mailed or dropped off at the Cumberland County Assessment Office, Historic Courthouse, One Courthouse Square, Carlisle, PA 17013, between now until March 1, 2025, Monday - Friday 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Emailed applications will not be accepted. For more information, residents can contact the Cumberland County Assessment office at 717.240.6350.

What is a homestead?

A homestead property is a dwelling primarily used by an owner as their permanent home. The owner may be living temporarily at another location, but they must intend to return to that home. No one can have more than one permanent home at any given time. Homestead properties do not include rental units, vacation homes, camps, or other homes in which the owner does not live on a permanent basis.

What is a farmstead?

A farmstead property includes all buildings and structures that are used primarily for agricultural purposes (such as housing animals, or storing supplies, production or machinery) on a farm of ten contiguous acres or more in size. The farmstead must be the permanent residence of at least one owner, as defined under the homestead definition. The farmstead exclusion would be applied to buildings and structures that are not already exempt from real property taxation under other laws.

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