



Cumberland County Board of Commissioners

Kelly Neiderer, Chairman . Jean Foschi, Vice Chairman . Gary Eichelberger, Secretary

Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tuesday, Sept. 16, 2025

MEDIA CONTACT:

Samantha Krepps, Communications Director

O: 717.240.6343 | M: 717.706.0001

sgkrepps@cumberlandcountypa.gov

Cumberland County Celebrates 25,000 acres of Preserved Farmland

"I believe in the preservation of farmland. It's vital to keep our rich soil for our farms forever," said Bob Boyce.

Carlisle, PA – At Lil' Ponderosa Beef, a pristine Carlisle angus cattle farm, owners Bob and Kate Boyce, the Cumberland County Commissioners, PA Director of Farmland Preservation, FFA students, and nearly 100 visitors today celebrated a major milestone, the preservation of 25,562 acres of rich farmland.

The Boyce's, who have owned their farm for 39 years, raise purebred grass-fed angus cattle. They previously preserved 123 acres, and they have additional land pending for preservation.

"I believe in the preservation of farmland. It's vital to keep our rich soil for our farms forever," said Bob Boyce. "We even took that one step further by feeding our cattle a grass-fed diet, no chemicals, growth hormones, antibiotics, or artificial additives."

Since the launch in 1989, the Cumberland County Farmland Preservation Program has safeguarded 229 farms, totaling 25,562 acres of agricultural land.

"Farmland, like the land we're standing on today, feeds our families, strengthens our economy, and sustains our way of life," said Cumberland County Commissioner Kelly Neiderer. "Every meal we enjoy begins on a farm: the wheat in our bread, the fruits in our lunchboxes, the vegetables on our dinner plates—all grown, harvested, and cared for by our local farmers."

Cumberland County is home to 1,186 farms spanning 146,389 acres. Today, agriculture remains a cornerstone of the county's economy, generating more than \$300 million in agricultural products annually.

"Our Farmland Preservation program benefits our more than 275,000 residents of Cumberland County," said Commissioner Jean Foschi. "Well-managed farms support the environment by protecting wildlife habitats, recharging groundwater, and maintaining the rural charm that makes this region so special. Preserving farmland strengthens tourism by maintaining the scenic beauty that draws visitors to our area."



Preserving farmland in Cumberland County is beneficial to our residents and visitors. Each acre of prime soil preserved has an economic contribution of more than \$14,000 and costs an average of \$3,700 to preserve.

“While it’s challenging to balance conservation and development, it’s not impossible,” said Commissioner Gary Eichelberger. “Farmland preservation works with local municipalities to encourage land use plans and ordinances that preserve and protect agriculture, highlighting the importance of working collaboratively at the local level to help the preservation program achieve its goals.”

To [donate](#) to the Farmland Preservation Program, visit:
www.cumberlandcountypa.gov/3540/Donation-Program

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