

Preserving Washington County Farmland for the Future

WHAT: Public Informational Seminar

WHEN: March 3, 2022 6:30 PM

**WHERE: Washington County Conservation District
50 Old Hickory Ridge Road
Washington, PA 15301**

Farm owners are invited to attend a public informational seminar to learn about the county's farmland preservation program. The seminar will provide a brief overview of the program and offer an opportunity for participants to ask questions and discuss issues pertaining to farm preservation.

Landowners who choose to participate in this program are financially compensated for the sale of an agricultural conservation easement. Landowners retain all other rights and privileges of private land ownership. The agricultural conservation easement runs with the land and legally binds future owners to the easement provisions.

Selling an agricultural conservation easement can ensure that a family's farmland will be protected from development and used for agricultural purposes only. To date, **6,954 acres** of farmland, preserved in perpetuity in Washington County through **45 easements**.

Farm owners voluntarily apply to the program and applications are ranked using a Land Evaluation Site Assessment (LESA) program. The program assigns weighted scores to a parcel based on soil quality, acreage, development pressure, clustering potential and other factors. Farms are selected for preservation in order of rank.

Interested participants should register by noon on March 3 to attend the seminar by calling the Washington County Planning Commission at 724-228-6811. Light refreshments will be served.