

**INDIANA COUNTY FARMLAND EASEMENT BOARD  
PURCHASE OF CONSERVATION EASEMENTS  
APPLICATION FORM**

**I. GENERAL INFORMATION**

Name of Owner(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Property Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

County: \_\_\_\_\_ Township: \_\_\_\_\_

Total acreage of tract: \_\_\_\_\_ Total acreage offered: \_\_\_\_\_

**II. FARMLAND TRACT IDENTIFICATION**

Location of farmland tract:

Deed reference: Book # \_\_\_\_\_ Page # \_\_\_\_\_

Tax map numbers of each parcel: \_\_\_\_\_

Do you own the coal rights? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

If no, is there any other third party that has rights to the surface to extract the coal or any other resources (limestone?) Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Has any portion of the farm been surface mined? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

**III. SITE CHARACTERS**

- A. 1. PUBLIC WATER AND/OR SANITARY SEWER SYSTEMS – Distance of tract from public water and/or sanitary sewer system.

Water: \_\_\_\_\_ Sewage: \_\_\_\_\_

2. ROAD FRONTAGE – Amount of road frontage of tract along public road.

\_\_\_\_\_

B. 1. PERCENTAGE OF TRACT IN HARVESTED CROPLAND, PASTURE, OR GRAZING LAND

Large amounts of productive farmland make a farm more viable. If a large percentage of the tract is not used as productive farmland, a lower score will be received.

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2. STEWARDSHIP OF THE LAND AND USE OF CONSERVATION AND BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

No score will be awarded under this factor unless sound soil and water conservation practices are in place with respect to a least 50% of the tract. The implementation of soil erosion control, sedimentation control, nutrient management and other practices demonstrating good stewardship of the tract shall be considered in scoring this factor.

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3. HISTORIC, SCENIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITIES

Tracts declared or listed by local/state/federal agencies as historic, scenic, open space, or cultural land tracts adjoining designated protected areas such as flood plains, wildlife habitat, parks, forests and educational sites will be awarded higher values reflecting broader policies affecting the farmland landscape. Environmentally sensitive and historical areas can buffer farmland from non-compatible land uses. Included, but not limited to tracts adjoining designated flood plains, environmentally sensitive watersheds, or high quality streams, or areas where grassroots watershed protection groups have designated areas to restore land and protect water quality. This factor will include publicly or privately protected properties.

C. 1. CONSISTENCY WITH PLANNING MAP

Location of tracts with respect to those areas of the county identified as important agricultural areas will be considered in scoring the clustering potential of the tract. A tract that is within an identified important agricultural area shall receive a higher score than tracts that are not.

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2. PROXIMITY TO ACTIVE AGRICULTURAL LAND OR RESTRICTED LAND

Percentage of the tract's boundary that borders harvested cropland or active pasture and grazing land or land already under agricultural conservation easement. When roads and streams establish the property line the land adjacent to the road and stream will be used in making this determination. This percentage times 65 represents the total score.

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3. PERCENTAGE OF ADJOINING LAND IN AN AGRICULTURAL SECURITY AREA

The percentage of a tract’s boundary that adjoins land in an Agricultural Security Area will be considered in scoring the clustering potential of the tract. Areas where agriculture has been given protection by the municipality, at the request of the landowners, provides an environment conducive to farming. The higher the percentage of the land that borders land in an Agricultural Security Area, the higher the score will be. \_\_\_\_\_

ALTERNATIVE: PROXIMITY TO AGRICULTURAL SECURITY AREA:

Is this tract in an ASA: \_\_\_\_\_

List adjoining tracts that are in an ASA: \_\_\_\_\_

The Township ranking with regards to the number of farms enrolled in Agricultural Security Area:

ASA recording information: Book # \_\_\_\_\_ Page # \_\_\_\_\_

IV. MAPS

- A. Tax Map – Provide a tax map with property lines and parcel number of the property.
- B. Conservation Plan Map – This map is located in the conservation plan for the farm and is an aerial photo indicating crop fields and pastures.
- C. Location Map – A United States Geological Survey topographic map showing the location of the farmland tract.

V. FARMING OPERATION

A. Conservation Plan

- i. Date of Conservation Plan and/or revision: \_\_\_\_\_
- ii. Conservation practices being employed on the farm include:
- iii. Do you have a Manure Management or Nutrient Management Plan? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

B. Land Use Summary

This information can be obtained from the conservation plan map. The total acreage indicated must equal acreage offered in Section I.

- a. Cropland..... \_\_\_\_\_ acres
- b. Pastureland..... \_\_\_\_\_ acres
- c. Woodland..... \_\_\_\_\_ acres
- d. Homestead..... \_\_\_\_\_ acres
- Total..... \_\_\_\_\_ acres

C. Production Information

Provide information for the previous year. List the crops grown and gross receipts for those sold off the farm. If crops are grown to support livestock, indicate the quantity of livestock or milk sold and gross receipts.

Product	Quantity	Value

VI. REASON FOR APPLICATION

The applicant shall provide a brief description stating why the applicant has chosen to participate in the Indiana County Farmland Easement Program.

VII. OFFICIAL CONTACT

Name, address, and phone number of the contact person who will receive all correspondence and be contacted to view the operation if different than Section I.

VIII. SIGNATURE(S)

It is necessary for all owners of the farmland to give their approval and consent to this application. I, hereby authorize the plan preparer to release copies of the Conservation Plan and Nutrient Management Plan (Act 38, if applicable), to the Indiana County Agricultural Land Preservation Board and the Bureau of Farmland Preservation as required under Act 43 criteria for easement purchase.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE NOTE: ONLY COMPLETED APPLICATIONS WILL BE CONSIDERED

RETURN TO:

Indiana County Farmland Easement Board c/o  
Indiana County Office of Planning & Development  
801 Water Street  
Indiana, PA 15701-1705  
OR Email Scott Yackuboskey at [scottyack@ceo.co.indiana.pa.us](mailto:scottyack@ceo.co.indiana.pa.us)