

ERIE COUNTY AGRICULTURAL LAND PRESERVATION BOARD
AGRICULTURAL CONSERVATION EASEMENT PROGRAM APPLICATION

Part A – Contact Information

Owner(s) of Property:
Name(s)

Address:

Telephone Number(s):

Email (if available):

Please provide name of best person to contact regarding this application. Please include contact information (phone/e-mail/ mailing address) if not noted above.

Street Address of the Farm, if different from the address noted above:

Directions from nearest State Route:

Part B – Agricultural Security Area Information

Note: Your farm must be enrolled in your municipality’s ASA in order to be eligible. If you are uncertain, check “unknown”, and the County will provide assistance.

Is your farm in an Agricultural Security Area (ASA)? Yes _____ No _____ Unknown _____

Name of Municipality: _____

ASA Book and Page Number: Book _____ Page _____ Unknown _____

Part C – Identification of Farm Parcels and Farm Acreage Information

Note: In most cases, farms must be at least 50 contiguous acres in size to meet program eligibility requirements. However, if your farm is adjacent to another property which has a perpetual conservation easement; or if your crops include grapes, potatoes, peaches or cherries, the minimum acreage requirement is reduced to 10 acres. Please contact the County if you have questions concerning your farm’s eligibility.

Deed reference(s): Book _____ Page _____
 Book _____ Page _____
 Book _____ Page _____

Tax assessment number(s) and acreage of each parcel:

Tax Number Acreage

Total acreage of farmland tract: _____

Acreage to be proposed for easement: _____

Are there any residential homes on the farm that will not be included in the easement? Yes _____ No _____ Undecided _____

If yes, please provide sketch/map showing approximate area to be excluded.

Note: Applicants may wish to consider excluding their homes from the farm easement. If a subdivision from the larger, farm parcel is required, this may be done during the easement purchase process, if desired.

Part D – Documentation of Agricultural Use

Note: Farms must contain the greater of 50% or 10 acres of harvested cropland, grazing or pasture land in order to meet minimum eligibility requirements. Please contact the County with any questions concerning your farm's eligibility.

Harvested Cropland is defined as land, other than land enrolled in the USDA Conservation Reserve Program, used for the commercial production of field crops, fruit crops, vegetables and horticultural specialties, such as Christmas trees, flowers, nursery stock and ornamentals, greenhouse products and sod, as defined by Act 43. The term does not include land devoted to production of timber and wood products.

Grazing or Pasture Land is defined as land, other than land enrolled in the USDA Conservation Reserve Program, used primarily for the growing of grasses and legumes which are consumed by livestock in the field and at least 90% of which is clear of trees, shrubs, vines or other woody growth not consumed by livestock.

Harvested Cropland

Type of Crop

Acreage

Total Acreage of Harvested Cropland

Grazing or Pasture Land Acreage

Total Acreage in Agricultural Use
(Cropland & Grazing and Pasture Land)

Crop Production Information

Please provide crop production information for the prior two growing seasons:

Year 1

Commodity	Acres Grown	Yield/Acre	Gross Receipts
Total Gross Receipts (Year 1)			\$

Please indicate: * corn for silage/green chop
 ** crops used for feed only

Year 2

Commodity	Acres Grown	Yield/Acre	Gross Receipts
Total Gross Receipts (Year 2)			\$

Please indicate: * corn for silage/green chop
 ** crops used for feed only

Livestock Report

Please provide livestock production information for the farmland for the most recent calendar year.

Livestock (type)	Number (average)	Product Sold	Gross Receipts
Total Gross Receipts			\$

Part E – Soils Report

Note: In order to be eligible, farms must contain at least 50% of soils which are available for production and are of capability classes I through IV, as defined by the USDA – Natural Resource Conservation Service.

Please complete the following capability class table. Please contact the County if you need assistance with this section.

Capability Class Table

Class	Cropland Acres	Pasture Acres	Other Acres	Total Acres
Class I				
Class II				
Class III				
Class IV				
Other Classes				
Total Acreage				

Part F – Soil and Water Conservation Practices

Note: Farms which will be dedicated to long-term agricultural use should not have depleted soils, and should be in compliance with local, state, and federal control regulations. An approved conservation plan is required for all farms preserved with an agricultural land conservation easement through this program.

If you do not already have a conservation plan, they are available from NRCS. Completion of an NRCS Release of Records form authorizing release of your approved plan to the Erie County Department of Planning is recommended. A copy of your approved plan is required as part of this application.

Do you have an approved, USDA-NRCS Soil Conservation Plan?

Yes _____ No _____

If yes, please provide the date of the plan: _____

If no, have you requested a plan from NRCS? Yes _____ No _____

A copy of your USDA soil conservation plan must be submitted with your application, and is needed in order to properly score and rank your farm.

Please list any soil and water conservation practices that have been implemented and/or installed. Refer to the practices recommended in your conservation plan.

Please indicate what percentage of soil and water conservation practices, as recommended in your conservation plan, have been implemented and/or installed.

_____ over 90%	_____ 50% to 74%
_____ 75% to 90%	_____ 0% to 49%

Do you have a Nutrient Management Plan?

Yes _____ No _____

If yes, please provide the date of the plan: _____

Part G – Additional Information

Number of years farming this land: _____

Number of years this farm has been in your family (either by direct relation or spouse's family): _____

Motivation for selling the development rights to this farm:

Number of farm employees: Full-time ____ Part-time/Seasonal ____

Number of farm buildings and condition of each:

	<u>Building(s)</u>	<u>Condition</u>
1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		
5.		
6.		
7.		
8.		
9.		
10.		

Are you aware of any exceptional historic, scenic or environmental qualities located on or adjacent to your farm? Examples include National Register of Historic Places, State game lands, public parks, conservation areas/lands, etc.

Yes _____ No _____

If yes, please describe.

Note: Farms with documented exceptional historic, scenic or environmental qualities, or located adjacent to State game lands, parks or conservation areas may be eligible for additional points during the scoring and ranking process.

Part H – Conservation Easement Acreage and Selling Price

I would consider selling an Agricultural Conservation Easement, consisting of _____ acres, to the Erie County Agricultural Land Preservation Board and/or the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania for not less than:

1. \$ _____ for the entire farm, or
2. \$ _____ per acre, or
3. _____ please check if you accept an amount to be determined by appraisal and acceptable to the buyer and the seller.

Part G – Signature(s)

It is necessary for all owners of the farmland tract to give their approval and consent to this application.

I, hereby, authorize the Conservation Plan preparer to release copies of the Conservation Plan and Nutrient Management Plan (Act 6, if applicable), to the Erie County Agricultural Land Preservation Board and the Bureau of Farmland Preservation as required under Act 43 criteria for easement purchase.

Signed _____ Date _____

Signed _____ Date _____

Signed _____ Date _____

Signed _____ Date _____

Please submit this application to:

Erie County Department of Planning
150 E. Front Street, Suite 300
Erie, PA 16507