

Preservation

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Some of the Farmland Preservation program milestones celebrated over the length of the program include:

The settlement of the first four farms preserved in the county, all on the same day in September of 1993, preserving 805 acres in one day.

The celebration of the 100,000 preserved acres in the Commonwealth on the Willard Setzer Farm in Lower Nazareth Township in 1997. At this celebration, then Governor Tom Ridge flew in by helicopter to present the county with a proclamation of achievement. The family of famed actor Jimmy Stewart was presented with their Bi-centennial Farm certification.

In 2001 we reached the milestone of preserving 5,000 acres of productive farmland in the county.

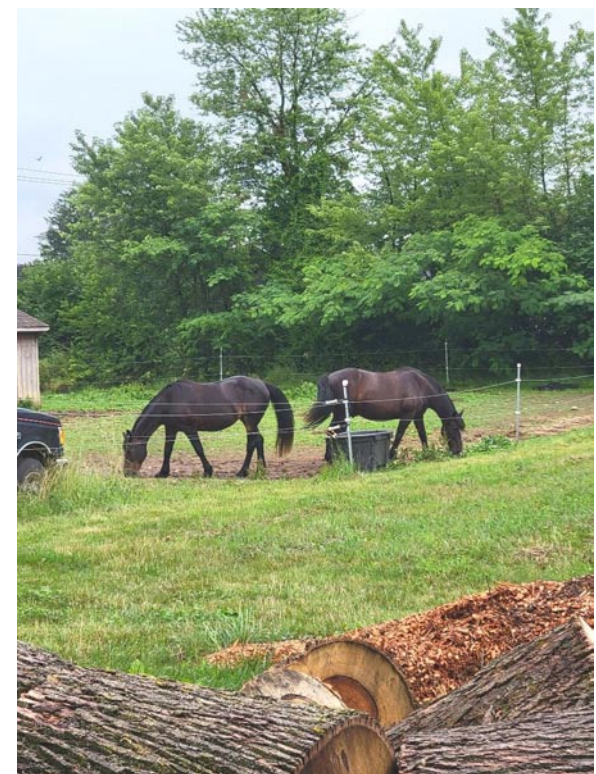
In 2008, the county hosted the Dept. of Agriculture, Bureau of Farmland Preservation State Board meeting on the Charles

& Jan Graver Farm in Moore Township to celebrate the Commonwealth reaching 400,000 acres preserved and Northampton County reaching our 10,000 acres preserved. Secretary Dennis Wolf, state staff, county and local officials, members of the preservation community, farmers, and landowners enjoyed a luncheon showcasing products from local vendors and local agricultural producers.

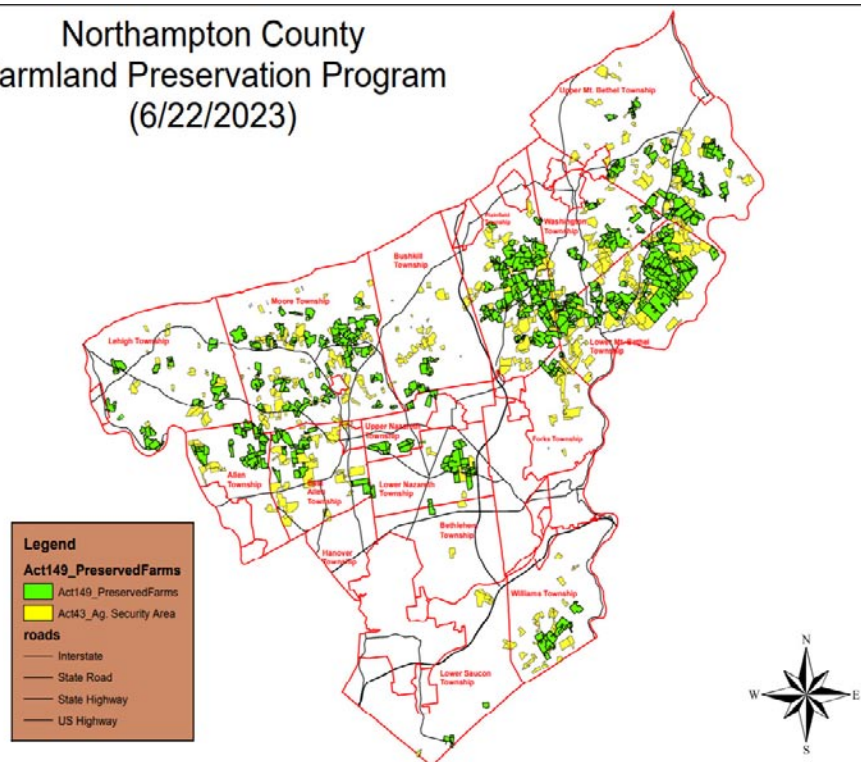
In 2019 on property purchased by Moore Township using their EIT (Earned Income Tax for Open Space), the county held the 200th Preserved Farm celebration. This property was preserved using an Agricultural Conservation Easement, and Moore Township separated off 15 acres to create the Joseph Schiavone Park. This partnership provided for agricultural ground to continue producing and allowed the park area to provide passive recreation and catch-and-release fishing on the ponds located on that portion of the property. A true successful partnership for the benefit of all.

Northampton County is celebrating 34 years of continued preservation efforts. With the preservation of the 250th farm, we reached the milestone of over 19,000 acres preserved in the county. We currently have 26 farms in the process of preservation. When completed, they will add approximately 500 acres to our preservation history. We are on track to preserve 20,000 acres by 2025.

Pennsylvania leads the nation with the most preserved farmland in the country. Farmland Preservation allows production agriculture to remain a viable industry in the Commonwealth.



Northampton County Farmland Preservation Program (6/22/2023)



Agriculture is Pennsylvania's number-one industry.

As we recognize what we have achieved up to today, we must be ever mindful of where we still need to go. We must be aware that we all need to do our part to ensure that agriculture, not only here in Northampton County continues but ensure that generations to come understand its importance in our daily lives and our future.

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