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Boscola Announces Five Northampton County Farms to be Preserved as Part of Commonwealth's Farmland Preservation Program

By Office of Senator Lisa Boscola

BETHLEHEM - Senator Lisa Boscola announced that five additional farms in Northampton County have been preserved as part of Pennsylvania's nation leading Farmland Preservation Program. The total investment of funds to preserve the 193 acres throughout Northampton County was nearly \$2 million with the state investing \$1,287,010 and Northampton County investing \$659,826.

The following five farms have been preserved:

- Thomas R. and JoLynn Engler, 49-acre crop farm, Plainfield Township
- Estate of Evelyn I. Spengler, 37-acre crop farm, East Allen Township
- Jacob R. and Amanda M. Klein #2, 16-acre crop farm, Forks Township
- James R. Poliskiewicz, Jr., 41-acre crop farm, Upper Mt. Bethel Township
- Roger C. and Trudy P. Unangst #3, 50-acre crop farm, East Allen Township

"Preserving farmland to ensure that it is available to farm for future generations by protecting it from future development is critically important. Once again, working collaboratively, the Commonwealth and Northampton County have made this investment to

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Northampton County Key Findings from the 2025 Return on Environment Study

By Jessica Berger

[Northampton County, PA] – Northampton County Executive Lamont G. McClure announced today that the County's 2025 Return on Environment study shows open space, parks, trails, and farmland generate more than \$434 million in benefits every year.

"Here in Northampton County, we have always recognized that our natural lands, parks, and trails are more than just scenery; they are essential infrastructure," said McClure. "Today, I am here to show you exactly what these investments are delivering, and the value is staggering."

Since 2006, Northampton County has invested more than \$20 million to safeguard open spaces. Since 2018 alone, the County has awarded \$9.2 million in grants, preserved over 600 acres, and added another 339 acres to its park system.

Key findings of the report include:

- \$436 million generated annually by outdoor recreation, supporting nearly 2,000 jobs
- \$37 million in annual savings from replenishing water supply
- \$48 million in natural flood protection each year
- \$85 million in air pollution removed annually by trees
- \$21.7 billion added to total home value across the County
- \$38.3 million in agricultural output supporting more than 700 jobs
- \$9–20 million in healthcare savings each year from active lifestyles connected to parks and trails

"The return on our environment is not just ecological, it is financial," McClure emphasized. "It's clear: people want to live near green spaces, and that demand translates into measurable economic benefits."

"These numbers confirm what we have always believed: protecting land is not an expense; it is one of the smartest investments we can make," McClure concluded. "Every dollar we put into open space pays dividends in cleaner water, healthier residents, stronger farms, higher property values, and a more resilient economy."



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