

Nation's Top 12 Locally Operated Farmland Preservation Programs, 2011

Rank	County	Total Preserved Acres	Ag Program Acres ¹	Ag Program Gain	Last Year's Gain	Other Program Ag Acres ²	Local Funding Available (millions) ³	Market Value of Ag Products ⁴ (millions)	Land in Farms ⁵ (acres)	Percent land in farms preserved	Effective Ag. Zoning ⁶
1	Lancaster (PA)	90,280	69,107	3,850	2,368	21,173	4.25	1.07 billion	425,336	20.1	Y
2	Montgomery (MD)	71,865	64,904	243	153	6,961	4	33.1	67,613	100	Y
3	Berks (PA)	69,227	63,709	1,929	2,172	5,518	1.08	367.8	222,119	30.2	N
4	Carroll (MD)	61,807	55,530	1,875	4,178	5,744	11	87.4	141,934	41.5	N
5	Chester (PA)	60,493	28,917	1,732	1,367	31,576	3	553.2	166,891	35.1	N
6	Baltimore (MD)	54,620	26,880	189	2,464*	27,740	2	68.4	78,282	69.3	Y
7	Burlington (NJ)	52,287	29,168	758	574	23,118	10	86.3	85,790	60.0	N
8	Marin (CA)	46,640	44,182	2,290	375	2,458	4.20	57.8	133,275	33.2	Y
9	York (PA)	46,187	37,908	254	714	8,279	0.10	212.6	292,507	15.5	N
10	Frederick (MD)	45,869	37,958	1,285	650	7,911	3	127	202,087	21.6	N
11	Harford (MD)	45,404	40,442	175	82	4,962	4	42.8	75,166	59.7	N
12	Sonoma (CA)	43,128	41,119	n/a	887	2,009	6	647.5	530,895	6.8	Y
TOTALS:		687,807	539,824	14,580	15,984	147,449	52.63	3.2 billion	2,421,895		

Notes ¹Ag program acres may include acres preserved by state and/or county or township programs. All reported acres were settled by Sept. 15. In Montgomery County, most acres are protected through transfer of development rights (TDR). Marin program operated by the nonprofit Marin Agricultural Land Trust. ²Other programs include the Maryland Rural Legacy Program (RLP), land trusts that use agricultural easements, TDR programs not operated by the county, and other easement programs that permanently set aside farmland for agricultural use. ³Local funds budgeted currently and for upcoming year if approved; does not include state match or federal dollars, which can more than double funding available. ⁴Source: USDA 2007 Census of Agriculture. Counties with significant equine uses have substantially higher economic value when those uses are examined. ⁵Land in farms changed, for some counties dramatically, from the 2002 to 2007 ag census. Source: USDA 2007 Census of Agriculture. ⁶Effective agricultural zoning- yes or no. Defined as density allowance in ag areas of one dwelling, or less, per 25 acres, covering at least 50 percent of land zoned for agricultural use. *Baltimore Co. ag gain last year attributed to RLP and database adjustments.

Sources: Acreage and funding figures: Data collected from county personnel and private organizations, Aug. - Oct. 2011. Market value & land in farms figures: USDA. Zoning: Interviews with county and state personnel, and Sokolow, Alvin D., *A National View of Agricultural Easement Programs: Easements and Local Planning*, June 2006.

How counties are ranked: This survey, conducted each September, examines a locality's total farmland preservation effort, including activities of other entities and programs, such as land trusts, open space districts that use agricultural easements, state-level farmland programs, and easements purchased with multiple funding sources. Acres reported are expected to include natural areas that are part of a property under agricultural use, but properties preserved primarily for environmental protection are asked to be excluded. Agricultural use must be protected in the easement. **How localities qualify for the survey:** The survey judges farmland preservation at the local level by 1) number of acres permanently preserved; 2) political leadership and professional administration; and, 3) significant funding over time. While number of acres determine ranking, inclusion in the survey requires meeting the other criteria. Other counties in the U.S. have significant protected acreage but lack in one or more of the qualifying criteria. Hundreds of localities qualify for assistance to purchase easements under state programs in 18 states, although funding is not always available in some states. Federal funding through the Farm & Ranchlands Protection Program (FRPP) is available to all qualifying states and localities.

Questions about this survey should be directed to the publisher at 410 692-2708 or 410 913-8979, email at farmlandpres@gmail.com. Published by Bowers Publishing, Inc., Street, Md. See www.farmlandpreservationreport.com.