



BERKELEY COUNTY FARMLAND PROTECTION

Strategic Plan

Protecting Farmland. Preserving Farming.

Adopted 9 February 2026 for

Fiscal Year 2027

and onward



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About BCFP



Our story begins in 2000, when the West Virginia Legislature passed the Voluntary Farmland Protection Act—setting the stage for preserving agricultural lands. Just months later, on June 15, 2000, Berkeley County proudly became the first county in the state to establish a Farmland Protection Board. Twenty-five years later, in 2025, the state and county celebrated a shared legacy of protecting farming and the land that sustains us. As of February 2026, Berkeley County has permanently protected more than 87 farms spanning over 9,100 acres. This achievement reflects a deep local commitment: over \$25.9 million in county funds, \$9.43 million in state and federal support, and an estimated \$17 million in donated easement value invested to keep land in agriculture. Berkeley County Farmland Protection protects farmland by using Deeds of Conservation Easement—permanent legal tools that limit future land uses incompatible with farming, ensuring the land remains productive for future generations. Protecting farmland matters now more than ever. Agriculture adds over \$32 million in market value to Berkeley County each year, while nationwide the U.S. loses farmland at an alarming rate of 2.2 million acres annually. Our focus is simple: keep farms farming, forever.

Strategic Goal 1: Acquisitions

Objective One:

Strategically conserve lands within our county.

- Focus on the most productive, working farms, quality soils, and natural features and resources.

Objective Two:

To annually protect the most agricultural land in Berkeley County that funds allow.



Strategic Goal 2: Stewardship

Objective 1: Remote Monitoring

- Incorporating remote monitoring using specialized software to meet monitoring and compliance requirements.
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Objective 2: Increase outreach and education to current easement holders and county partners. Approach relationships collaboratively.

Objective 3: Internship

- Partner with a local college or organization to offer a credit-based internship that would focus on conservation and GIS-based skills.
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Objective 4: Develop a a clear, easy to read document with pertinent Board policies and procedures related to violations and enforcement.

Strategic Goal 3: Long-Term Organizational & Financial Stability

Objective 1: Tax Deductible Donation Status

- Pursue the ability to receive tax deductible donations from the public.
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Objective 2: Community Outreach

- A focus to build a network of supporters that do not have roots or direct ties to agriculture.
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Objective 3: Produce an annual report.

Objective 4: Staff

- Encourage professional development of current staff.
 - Build a strong succession plan to ensure smooth future transitions.
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Objective 5: Committed Board of Directors

- Build a comprehensive on-boarding that is mandatory for any new Board members and encourage attendance of trainings.
 - Deepen Board knowledge: Board members should be well familiar with policies and procedures.
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Berkeley County Farmland Protection

<https://linktr.ee/bcwvfarmland>