

WHY PROTECT FARMLAND? Agriculture has sustained Jefferson County's people and economy for more than 300 years. Our scenic and productive working lands contribute to a diverse economy, support local businesses and employ local labor. Our open fields, woodlands, waterways and historic rural landscapes make the county a desirable place to live, work and visit.

Since the 1990s, over one third of Jefferson County's fertile farmland has vanished, permanently lost to buildings and pavement. In 2000, concerned farmers, townspeople and public leaders founded the Jefferson County Farmland Protection Board to protect and preserve the county's working farmland through a voluntary conservation program. Landowners have responded enthusiastically to this competitive program with applications for over 9,000 acres.

Protecting farmland keeps land available and affordable for future farmers. Now more than ever, we must sustain our county's productive farmland to feed a growing and increasingly urbanized world.

WHAT IS AN EASEMENT? A Deed of Conservation Easement is a flexible legal tool that landowners can use to retire development rights permanently on all or part of their land to protect its natural, agricultural, scenic and historic values. Property owners retain full use and title to their land, subject to the easement terms. Because a deed of easement is perpetual, future owners also will be bound by its terms. The Farmland Protection Program also can help families meet financial goals, expand their operations, reduce debt or fund retirement.



Thank you to our Program Collaborators and Funding Partners.

OUR CONSERVATION PARTNERS:

- Berkeley County Farmland Protection Board
- Civil War Preservation Trust
- Land Trust Alliance
- Land Trust of the Eastern Panhandle
- National Park Service/American Battlefield Protection Program
- Potomac Conservancy
- The Nature Conservancy
- USDA/Natural Resources Conservation Service,
- West Virginia Agricultural Lands Protection Authority
- West Virginia Association of Farmland Protection Boards
- West Virginia Rivers

JEFFERSON COUNTY PARTNERS:

- Jefferson County Development Authority
- Jefferson County GIS Office
- Jefferson County Historic Landmarks Commission
- Jefferson County Planning and Zoning Office
- Jefferson County Prosecuting Attorney's Office
- The many County employees who have assisted us during the year.

“Day by day, and farm by farm, we help landowners keep their family land intact. You can help protect land with your contribution. Every dollar you give is dedicated to the Farmland Protection Fund and can be matched with public grants.”

— Rob Glenn, President
Jefferson County Farmland Protection Board

Left: The Hockman family, Twin Ridge Orchard, protected in 2011.

The Board thanks the many people who have given their time, talent and funds for farmland protection.

Jennifer Aaron	Heather Gibson	William and Deloris	Terry Lee and Margaret
Jennifer Allen	Maurice Gladhill	Nicewarner	Walker
John Allen, Jr.	Robert Glenn	Michael and Rosemary	Lisa and Paul Welch
Anonymous (3)	Jeffrey Gustafson	Nickerson	Elizabeth Wheeler
Richard and Ginger	David Hammer	Jane Dieter Nuland	Ron and Lyn Widmyer
Avioli	Elizabeth Haney	Bridget O'Brien	Hank Willard
John and Patricia	June and Dixon	Sylvie O'Brien	Dennis Wilson
Bachner	Hemphill	Margaret Olcott	Julia and Greg Yuhasz
Hillary Banachowski	Robert C. Henshaw	Sandra Osbourn	Linda Zwobota
Neil and Alice Barkus	Paul Herrup	Pam and Ren Parziale	
Robert R. Barrat	Randy Hilton	Gavin Perry	Bank of Charles Town
Chip and Debbie	James Holland	Jane Peters	Berkeley County
Bennett	Nancy Hooff	David Pill	Farmland Protection
Dr. Keith Berkeley, DVM	Mary Horky	Charlotte Porter	Board
Laura Bowman	Debra Lee Hovatter	Russell and Victoria	CCBC Essex Math
Marion Buckner	Archibald Hoxton	Quinn	Department
Linda Carter	Barbara Humes	Jane F. Rissler	City National Bank
Matthew Coffey	Jack and Emma Huyett	Susan Robertson	Charles Town Farmers
Chris Colbert	Marty and Carol Kable	John Schley	Market
Tom Conant	Effie Kallas	Bill Senseny	The Claymont Society
Lee Cooper	Nick and Shari	Mark Schiavone and	Horsemen's Benevolent
Phil Cox	Kercheval	John Restiano	& Protective
Jill Daniel	Richard Latterell	Keri Shaner	Association
David and Dana	James Leathers	Linda Shea	Land Trust of the
DeJarnette	James Lee	Harold Shotwell	Eastern Panhandle
Henry and Faye	Lisa, Gina and Eugene	Amy Silver	Lyle C. Tabb & Sons, Inc
Davenport	Lefferts	Dorolyn Smith	Jefferson County
Eileen Taylor Davis	Eric Lewis	Peter and Vicki Smith	Development
R.T. and B. C. Donham	Alice and Niels Lium	Sylvia Sorkin	Authority
Christopher and Susan	Col Edward Lloyd	Nancy and Michael	Jefferson County Farm
Donham	Ralph Lorenzetti &	Spensley	Bureau
Samuel and Edwina	Dr. Rosemarie	Eric Stine	Jefferson Security Bank
Donley	Cannarella, MD	Oscar C. and Janet B.	Skinner Law Firm
William Donley	John and Renee Lowe	Stine	USDA/Natural
John Doyle	Laura Lowther	William Strider	Resources
William Drennen	Christina Lundberg	Scott Sudduth	Conservation Service
Matthew Dunn	John R. Maxey	J. Frank Supplee IV	NPS/American
Jack and Emma	Nancy McCormick	Stephen Swartz	Battlefield Protection
Eggleston	Liz McDonald	Jane and Cam Tabb	Program
Joan and Erdem Ergin	Phil and Becky	Hali Taylor	
Josephine Frazier	McDonald	Robin Huyett Thomas	
Peter and Linda Fricke	Bob and Tia McMillan	Brenda L. Villard	
Randy and Clissy	Noah Mehrkam	Linda and Shawn	
Funkhouser	Warren & Reva Mickey	Walker	



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The Jefferson County Farmland Protection Board Annual Report

White Park Calf,
Gap View Farm,
Charles Town, WV

Photo: Mark Muse

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July 1, 2017 – June 30, 2018

The Jefferson County Farmland Protection Board

The Farmland Protection Board is committed to keeping Jefferson County's rich, irreplaceable farmland available to grow food and to protect clean water, wildlife habitats and our historic countryside. Farmland protection directly benefits you, your neighbors and the many visitors who appreciate this special place we call home.

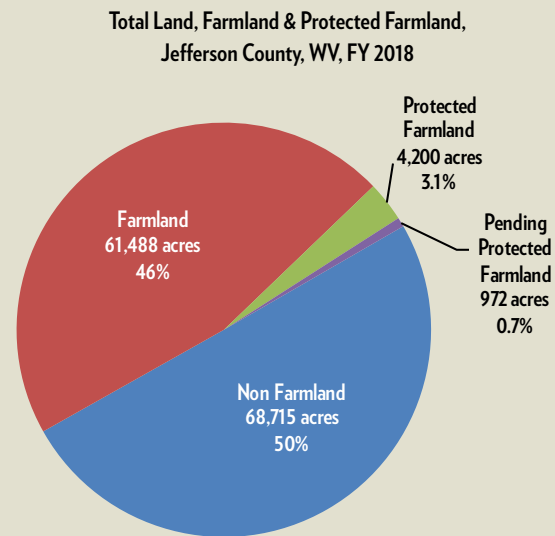
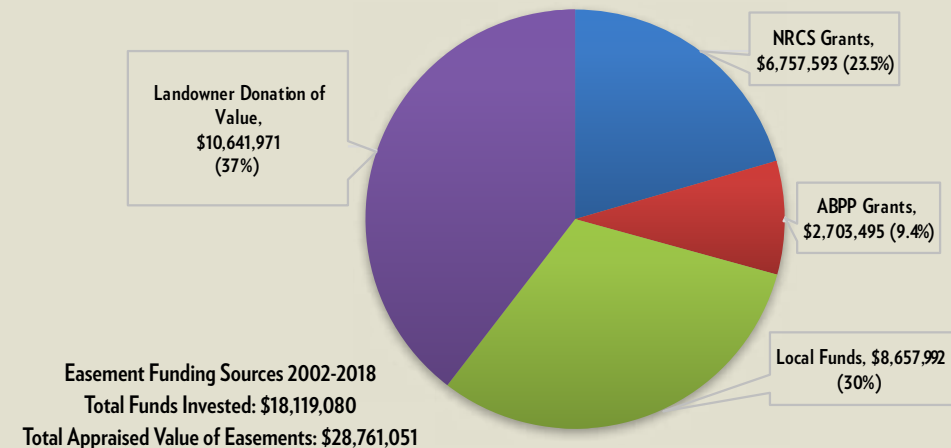
Today, almost half of Jefferson County's land is still in farms. Yet we can't ever take it for granted. Since 2007, more than 5,000 acres of farmland has been permanently removed from agricultural use.

Steady Progress Since 2002

The Board has helped landowners protect 41 working farms with 4,200 acres of land.

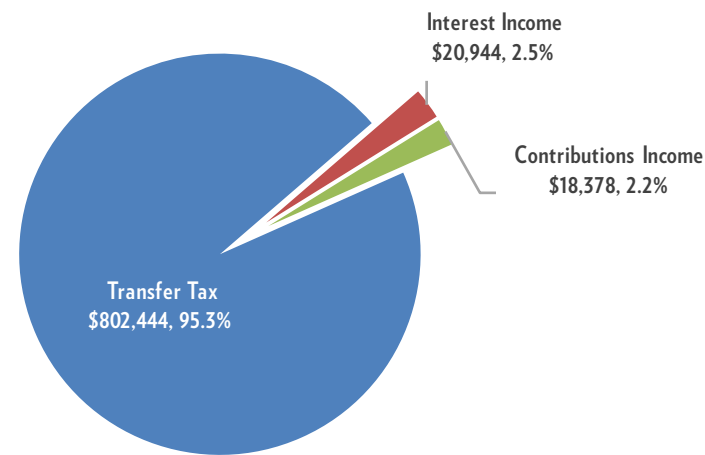
In September 2017 the Board completed the protection of Gap View Farm, a 318-acre cattle farm operation and one of the county's few remaining pre-revolutionary farms. During FY 2018, the Board began working with landowners to process funded conservation easements on five farms totaling 972 acres. In October 2017, another five landowners with 875 acres submitted new applications.

As of June 30, 2018, the Board has invested a total of \$8.65 million to protect farmland with a development value of \$28.7 million. Each local dollar has been matched with \$1.09 of federal money and \$1.23 of donated value from landowners. Since 2002, generous landowners have donated \$10.6 million through bargain sales. These substantial donations help the Board to stretch its limited funds to assist others seeking to protect their land.

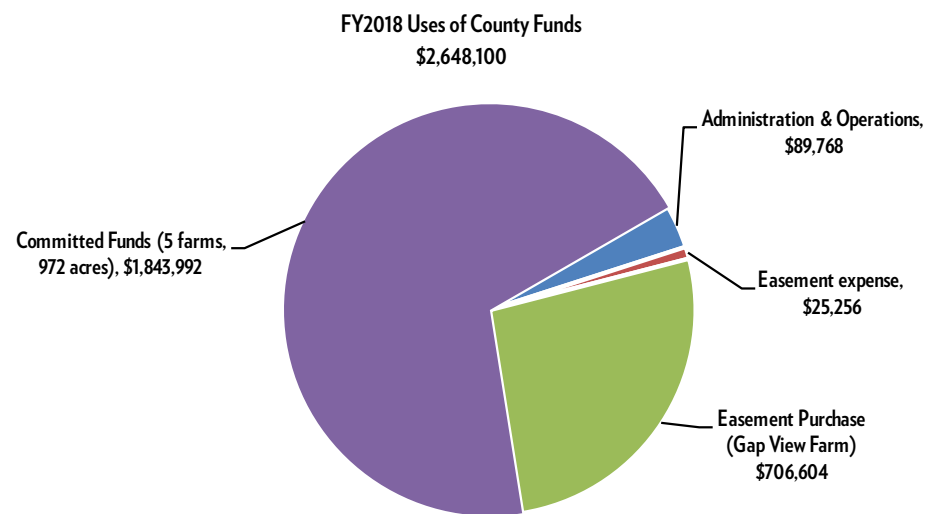


Financial Summary July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2018

The Farmland Protection Program is funded locally through the county's real estate transfer tax and by private donors. The Board receives matching funds from the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (USDA/NRCS) and the National Park Service's American Battlefield Protection Program (NPS/ABPP).



The Board manages its resources carefully. Operations and personnel costs in 2018 totaled \$89,768, or 10.7% of income. Easement costs totaled \$25,256 or 3% of income. The Board committed a reserve of \$1.84 million for pending conservation easements on 972 acres on five farms, with a pending match of \$1.44 million from NRCS. The Board's books are audited by external auditors and reviewed by the State Auditor's Office annually. The audit passed successfully in 2017 and in all previous years. Visit www.jefferson.wvfp.org to view our audited financial statements.



The Farmland Protection Board is composed of seven volunteer county residents appointed by the County Commission. Each is a voting member, except for the Jefferson County Commissioner, who serves in an advisory capacity.

Nic Diehl, Executive Director of the County Development Authority

Robert Glenn, Esq., county resident at large
Nick Kercheval, farmer, member of the Soil Conservation District

Elizabeth D. McDonald, county resident at large
David Ober, farmer at large

Russ Quinn, farmer, member of the county Farm Bureau

Jane Tabb, farmer, County Commissioner (non-voting)
Program Director: Elizabeth B. Wheeler

"We believe that farmland protection is an essential investment in our economy, agricultural heritage and quality of life."

—The Jefferson County Farmland Protection Board

Your Gift Supports Farmland Protection

Give online at www.jefferson.wvfp.org, or MAIL YOUR GIFT TO P.O. Box 731, Charles Town, WV 25414.

Leave a legacy through a bequest: A gift through your will or living trust for farmland protection will be a lasting memorial for future generations. THANK YOU!

Donations to the Farmland Protection Board, a 501(c)3 charitable organization, are tax-deductible. Tax ID No. 55-0779838

New Visions for a Protected Farm

Twelve farms in the Farmland Protection Program have changed hands since 2003. This year, we welcome Dan and Sarah Chittal, the new owners of a small Shepherdstown farm protected in 2007. Both are military veterans, and work for IT companies. Sarah also is completing her Doctor of Nursing Practice degree at Shepherd University. Sarah grew up on a New Jersey farm. Dan worked on his Uncle Jack Quinn's farm in the summers. Jack Quinn, a founding member of the Farmland Protection Board, protected his farm in 2007. Dan said, "At first, working for Uncle Jack was just work, but he taught me to appreciate farming. Now, it's a passion. When Sarah and I found our farm, we were excited that it was protected and near Uncle Jack's home place. We started with a few cattle and built a new barn. Next year we'll rent 30 acres to expand our operation. Someday, we hope to buy a larger farm."

