



**Delaware
Soil and Water
Conservation District**
Helping You Help The Land

(740) 368-1921 --- soilandwater.co.delaware.oh.us

2025 Landowner Pre-Application

for the Ohio Department of Agriculture's (ODA)

Clean Ohio Local Agricultural Easement Purchase Program (LAEPP)

Coordinated by the Delaware Soil and Water Conservation District

On behalf of Local Sponsors, the Delaware County Board of Commissioners

DEADLINE: Friday, February 7, 2025

Complete application must be received in the Delaware SWCD office by 4:30 pm, Friday, February 7, 2025.

Materials can be submitted in person, or via postal mail.

For additional information or questions, please contact Erin Fisher, Delaware SWCD at efisher@co.delaware.oh.us or 740-368-1921

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS:

All of the following requirements must be met to be eligible to apply for the program:

1. Are all parcels zoned for agricultural use? **YES / NO**
2. *Are all parcels enrolled in CAUV through the Delaware County Auditor's Office? **YES / NO**
3. *Are all parcels enrolled in Agricultural District Program through the Delaware County Auditor's Office? **YES / NO**
4. If this application covers more than one parcel, are all parcels contiguous? **YES / NO**
5. Is the farm at least 40 acres in size OR 25 acres in size and adjacent to protected land compatible with agriculture? (See ODA's "Small Farm Policy" on the LAEPP website noted under Part IV of this application for exceptions) **YES / NO**
6. Can you certify that the farm is not engaged in any nonagricultural commercial activities? **YES / NO**
7. Is the entire farm included in this application (including the homestead, if applicable)? **YES / NO**
8. Are all parcels owned by the same single legal entity? **YES / NO**
9. Do you acknowledge that if selected for easement purchase, that all parcels that make up the application will be bound together by one agricultural easement, and when sold or transferred in the future, all parcels must be conveyed as one unit (including homestead)? **YES / NO**

*Application period for these programs is open from the first Monday in January until the first Monday in March, please contact Erin ASAP to discuss the possibility of completing in time to apply for the LAEPP 2025 funding round if not already enrolled.

I. Contact Information

A. Contact Name: _____

B. Mailing Address: _____

C. Email: _____

D. Phone: *Daytime*-_____ *Cell*-_____

II. Farm Information

A. Farm Name (if applicable): _____

B. Farm Renter (if applicable): _____

C. Farm Address: _____

D. Township: _____

E. Parcel Info (*attach an additional sheet if needed*)

Parcel Number:

Acreage:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

F. Type of ownership (individuals, trust, corporation, etc.): _____

G. Legal name of ownership entity (if applicable): _____

H. List all individual owners, members, or trustees with ownership in the Farm

(*attach an additional sheet if needed*)

Name:

Signing Authority (circle YES or NO):

_____ YES NO

_____ YES NO

_____ YES NO

_____ YES NO

I. Are there any pending easements, property line concerns, parcel splits, court judgments against, or estate disputes associated with the property or any party with ownership interest? Describe.

J. List all known mortgages, lines of credit, and other liens or encumbrances against the farm:

Name of Bank/Mortgage Company: Parcel(s) Covered (use numbering from Part II E, above)

K. List all existing active oil & gas leases on the farm:

Name of Oil & Gas Company: Acres Covered: Parcel(s) Covered:

L. List all existing utility or Right-Of-Way easements on the farm:

Name of Utility/ROW Holder: Acres Covered: Parcel(s) Covered:

M. List approximate acres for each land use for the entire farm in 2024:

Row Crop Acres:	Pasture Acres:	Hay Acres:
Woodlot Forested Acres:	Homestead Acres:	Number of Houses:
CRP/Stream Buffer Acres:	Other: Acres:	Other: Acres:
Livestock: # Head:	Livestock: # Head:	Livestock: # Head:

N. Does the farm have a Woodland Stewardship Management Plan? YES NO (circle one)

O. Does the farm have a whole farm conservation plan on file with the National Resources

Conservation Service (NRCS)? YES NO (circle one)

III. Required Attachments

Please provide copies of the following documents with your Pre-Application. **No original documents please-** the attachments will not be returned.

- Current Deed of Ownership; *covering all parcels with complete legal description*
- Evidence of placement in an Agricultural District; *such as an approved copy of the application from the County Auditor**
- NRCS whole farm conservation plan for entire property*
- Woodland Stewardship Management Plan; *if property contains more than 40 acres of woods or is over 20% forested**
- Agricultural Security Area evidence; *if applicable*
- Historic designation evidence; *if applicable*
- Memorandum of Trust or corporation incorporation papers, including signing authority; *if ownership is under a trust or LLC*

*Please indicate if you are in the process of acquiring these required documents. Documents must be submitted to the office by March 6, 2025. Failure to do so will remove your application from consideration. Reminders will not be sent.

IV. Landowner Acknowledgement

By signing this Pre-Application, I understand and acknowledge the following:

- A. The Delaware County Board of Commissioners is the Delaware County 2025 Certified Local Sponsor for the Ohio Department of Agriculture's (ODA) 2025 Clean Ohio Local Agricultural Easement Purchase Program (LAEPP). The Delaware Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) coordinates the program on behalf of the Commissioners. All available ODA documents, including program requirements and draft easement deeds (subject to revisions), are available to me at: <https://agri.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/oda/programs/farmland-preservation-office>
- B. If an agricultural easement is placed on my land, I will still own my land and may sell, gift, or otherwise convey it to others. I also understand that **the farm must be conveyed in whole and cannot be subdivided after the agricultural easement is placed on it**. Once my application is submitted, and if selected, I understand that ownership changes or new encumbrances may delay the easement acquisition process.
- C. I have reviewed and understand the ODA *2025 Policies and Guidelines* requirements from ODA's website (noted above) and my farm meets ODA's minimum requirements (summarized at the beginning of this application).
- D. I understand ODA's Farmstead/Homestead Policy which *"permits one homestead to be reserved if no housing currently exists on the applicant property. The reservation allows for one-single family home to be built in the future. If housing exists on the property at the time of application, then no additional residences may be built. Any future or existing house on the preserved farm may not be subdivided from the farm."*
- E. Funding for this Program is not guaranteed. Funding for my farm is not guaranteed. This Pre-Application is non-binding. If I receive an offer, I will be asked several times to confirm my willingness to proceed with the agricultural easement purchase process.
- F. I understand that if my property is selected, certain expenses (such as closing costs or property survey) are associated with placing an agricultural easement on my land, and neither the ODA, nor the Delaware County Board of Commissioners, nor the Delaware SWCD will pay for these expenses.
- G. As Local Sponsors, the Delaware County Board of Commissioners may submit an application to ODA on my behalf. The LAEPP program does not allow me to submit an application on my own.
- H. I understand that the Delaware SWCD and the Delaware County Board of Commissioners cannot provide legal or financial advice. A completed closing of a conservation easement has multiple potential financial, tax, and other implications. Landowners are encouraged to seek information from their own advisors.
- I. The maximum amount ODA will pay is \$2,000 per acre, up to a maximum of \$500,000 per farm, which is determined using ODA's points-based appraisal and is non-negotiable.

J. I understand that the information provided or referenced in the Pre-Application is current as of January 3, 2025 and all information, timelines, and deadlines are subject to change. I will ask for copies of any documents referenced in this Pre-Application that I cannot locate on my own.

K. If selected for funding, I understand that **the process and timeline for closing the easement takes on average two years**. If I am to back out of the process at any point during this time, I will still be responsible for any related costs already incurred.

Landowner Signature of Authorized Representative

Date

Printed Name

Landowner Signature of Authorized Representative

Date

Printed Name

Landowner Signature of Authorized Representative

Date

Printed Name

Please print more copies of this page if more signature lines are needed.
Please make a copy of this signed form for your records or ask for a copy when submitting this form.

This application, with original signatures, must be received at Delaware SWCD by 4:30 p.m., Friday February 7, 2025. Mail or drop off to:
ATTN: Erin Fisher, Delaware Soil and Water
PO Box 8006
Delaware, Ohio 43015

For additional information or questions, please contact Erin Fisher at efisher@co.delaware.oh.us or 740-368-1921