



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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QUALIFIED ENTITIES CAN APPLY NOW TO HELP PRESERVE LOCAL FARMLAND THROUGH OHIO'S LOCAL AGRICULTURAL EASEMENT PURCHASE PROGRAM

*Local Sponsor Certification for the 2022 Funding Year Open
September 20 - October 22*

REYNOLDSBURG, Ohio (September 20, 2021) – Counties, Soil & Water Conservation Districts, land trusts, cities and townships are invited to apply to the Ohio Department of Agriculture's Office of Farmland Preservation for local sponsor certification from September 20 - October 22, 2021.

Local sponsors that complete the certification application and qualify will be allocated a portion of the \$6.5 million in Local Agricultural Easement Purchase Program 2022 funds. These funds are used to purchase agricultural easements on Ohio farms, preserving productive agricultural farmland in perpetuity.

Certified local sponsors will then accept local landowner applications and help secure easements through ODA's Local Agricultural Easement Purchase Program. Once the easement is secured, the local sponsor visits the farm once a year to complete a monitoring report to ensure the land is being used for agricultural purposes.

The application is available on ODA's [local sponsor page](#). Any organization interested in being a local sponsor for the 2022 landowner application year must apply during this time period. Local sponsors that applied in 2020 do not need to reapply.

If you have questions, please contact the Farmland Preservation Office at 614-728-6238 or farmlandpres@agri.ohio.gov.

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