



# NEWS

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## **Montco Adds Two More Farms to Preservation Program**

**Norristown, PA (April 21, 2014)** – The Montgomery County Commissioners have announced that two more farms with a total of 114 acres have been preserved from future development. The county’s application to preserve the farms was approved by the Pennsylvania Agricultural Land Preservation Board last week.

The two farms that were preserved are the 85-acre Charolette Maynard farm on Fruitville Road in Limerick Township, and the 29-acre Stanley Detwiler farm on Creamery Road in Franconia Township. With these latest additions, the county’s farm preservation program now includes 152 farms totaling 8,945 acres.

“The preservation of farmland in Montgomery County is a high priority for us, because it helps maintain the farming traditions in the county, and also preserves land from development making the county one of the most diverse in the state and maintaining our excellent quality of life,” said Josh Shapiro, chair of the Montgomery County Board of Commissioners.

The Montgomery County Farmland Preservation Program purchases agricultural easements from productive farms in Montgomery County. When the easement is sold, the owner keeps the land but no longer has the right to build non-agricultural buildings. The land must remain in farming in perpetuity. The farmer may sell the land, but the new owner must continue to grow productive crops or pasture on it. Applying to the program is voluntary. The county share of the easement on the Maynard farm was \$75,000, and it was \$13,500 for the Detwiler farm.

For more information on the Montgomery County Farmland Preservation program go to <http://www.montcopa.org/index.aspx?nid=690>.