



NEWS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Maple Acres Farm Preservation Celebrated in Plymouth Township

Norristown, PA (October 1, 2019) – Maple Acres Farm, the last farm in Plymouth Township, was permanently preserved today thanks to a coordinated effort among the Commonwealth, Montgomery County, and Plymouth Township. The project purchased the century-old farm’s property rights for nearly \$1 million, funds that will help farm owner, Gary McKeown and his family, keep the 27-acre farm running in perpetuity.

“We know that farms feed us and provide a host of economic, environmental, and health benefits, but they are threatened,” said Montgomery County Commissioner Chair Valerie A. Arkoosh.

Gary McKeown’s family purchased the farm in 1916 and still lives in the 18th-century farmhouse.

Preserving Maple Acres Farm is another small step for the County to meet its 2040 goal of preserving 14,600 acres on 246 farms. Working with partners such as the Penn State Extension service, the Conservation District, land conservancies, and townships, the County provides technical assistance to farmers to keep their farms viable.

“It’s my life mission to keep this farm alive to continue to share this space with all its offerings with our community,” said McKeown.



Cutline

(L to R): Pennsylvania Bureau of Farmland Preservation Director Douglas Wolfgang, Commissioner Vice Chair Kenneth E. Lawrence Jr., Maple Acres Farm and Market owner Gary McKeown, Commissioner Chair Valerie A. Arkoosh, Plymouth Township Council member at large Karen Branblett. (Photo/Teresa Harris)