The Clean Ohio Agricultural Easement Purchase Program Survey

Please return your completed questionnaire in the enclosed envelope as soon as possible to:

Office of Farmland Preservation
Ohio Department of Agriculture
8995 East Main Street
Reynoldsburg, OH 43068-3399

If you have any questions, please call our survey partner, Jill Clark at Ohio State University:
614-571-1583
SECTION 1: PARTICIPATION IN AEPP

1. Have you participated in the Agricultural Easement Purchase (AEPP) Program?
   □ Yes go on
   □ No return survey in enclosed postage paid envelope

2. What is the total acreage of the farmland you own in Ohio? ______ acres

3. How many acres of your total farmland have you put under easement through AEPP?
   ______ acres

SECTION 2: USE OF AEPP FUNDS

4. How did you use the funds you received from AEPP? (Write the percentage of funds used in each category. Must add up to 100%.)
   a. Paying off debts ______ %
   b. Reinvesting in daily farm expenses ______ %
   c. Hiring Employees ______ %
   d. Trying new management or retail practices ______ %
   e. Buying more land ______ %
   f. Buying more equipment ______ %
   g. Repairing or expanding buildings ______ %
   h. General Savings or investment ______ %
   i. Retirement funds ______ %
   j. Trusts for children ______ %
   k. Education ______ %
   l. Travel/recreation/vacation ______ %
   m. Income tax payment ______ %
   n. New farm building ______ %
   o. Conservation practices ______ %
   p. Other ______%
   q. Other ______%
   Total ______ 100 %

5. Why did you participate in the AEPP? (Please answer in the space below.)
6. On a scale of 1 to 7, how satisfied are you with the level of communication about the easement with ODA?

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<th>Neutral</th>
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7. On a scale of 1 to 7, how satisfied are you with the level of communication about the easement with your local sponsor, who applied to AEPP on your behalf (ex. county commissioners, township trustees, SWCD, local land trust)?

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8. On a scale of 1 to 7, overall, how satisfied are you with AEPP?

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9. What changes if any would you recommend to improve AEPP? (Please answer in the space below.)
“One of the goals of the Clean Ohio Agricultural Easement Purchase Program is to assist landowners and communities in preserving Ohio's farmland. Farmland protection activities not only ensure that the scenic views and heritage of Ohio's countryside are maintained for future generations, but they also benefit our environment and provide critical habitat for local wildlife populations.”

10. Based on the above statement and your experience with the AEPP, how would you rate the success of the AEPP’s ability to meet the above goal in your county?

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11. Please explain your answer to question #10 in the space below.

12. What does the AEPP mean to you, your family and your farm? (Please answer in the space below.)

13. If the AEPP did not exist (in other words, if you had not been able to sell your easement through AEPP) what do you think you would have done? (Check the most appropriate response.)

- □ Continued to farm
- □ Used the land for some other purpose
- □ Sold the entire farm to a farmer
- □ Rented the entire farm to a farmer
- □ Sold some of the farm to a developer
- □ Sold the entire farm to a developer
- □ Other (please specify):______________
SECTION 4: TELL US ABOUT YOUR FARM

14. Do you still own the farmland protected by an AEPP easement?
   □ Yes ➔ continue
   □ No ➔ please go to Section 9

15. How long have you owned the farmland protected by AEPP? _____years

16. Do you operate and manage this farm protected by easement?
   □ Yes ➔ continue
   □ No ➔ continue and seek guidance from the farm manager to answer questions in Sections 4 through 8

17. Please mark all the agricultural commodities that were produced on your farm in 2008.

   **LIVESTOCK**                                      **CROPS**
   □ Milk                                              □ Corn (either grain or silage)
   □ Dairy cattle (breeding stock)                     □ Hay or haylage
   □ Hogs                                               □ Soybeans
   □ Beef                                               □ Small grains (oats, barley, etc.)
   □ Sheep or Goats                                     □ Vegetables (fresh or processing)
   □ Poultry                                            □ Tobacco
   □ Horses                                             □ Nursery or Greenhouse crops
   □ Other: ____________                                □ Fruit or orchard crops
   □ Other: ____________                                □ Timber
   □ Other: ____________                                □ Wheat
   □ Other: ____________                                □ Christmas Trees
   □ Other: ____________                                □ Sod
   □ Other: ____________                                □ Other: ____________
   □ Other: ____________                                □ Other: ____________

18. PLEASE CIRCLE the single commodity above that provided the most gross farm income in 2008.

19. How is your farm business organized?
   □ Sole proprietorship (single family or individual operation)
   □ Family partnership
   □ Non-family partnership
   □ A family corporation
   □ A non-family corporation
   □ Other: ________________
20. How much of the total labor on your farming operation is provided by you or your family? (Please check your answer.)
- All
- Almost all
- More than half
- Less than ½ (most labor done by paid, nonfamily workers)
- None (all labor done by paid, nonfamily workers)

SECTION 5: RECENT CHANGES TO YOUR FARM AND HOUSEHOLD

Have you done any of the following as a consequence of participating in the AEPP? (Please check your answer.)

21. Diversified into new crops or different kinds of livestock, or created new products from crops you had already been growing?
- Yes
- No

22. Established new conservation practices (e.g., precision farming, milk house waste treatment)?
- Yes
- No

23. Established new or additional farm business(es)?
- Yes
- No

24. Established new farm practices (e.g., rotational grazing, organic certification or Integrated Pest Management)?
- Yes
- No

SECTION 6: FARM MANAGEMENT FUTURE PLANS

We want to know your future farm management plans as a result of participating in the AEPP. Do you PLAN to …

25. Diversify into new crops or different kinds of livestock, or create new products from crops you already grow?
- Yes
- No

26. Establish new conservation practices (e.g., precision farming, milk house waste treatment)?
- Yes
- No
27. Establish new farm business(es)?
   □ Yes
   □ No

28. Establish new farm practices (e.g., rotational grazing, transitioning to organic certification or Integrated Pest Management)?
   □ Yes
   □ No

SECTION 7: FARM ECONOMICS

29. Which of the following categories represent the total farm receipts for this farm business in 2008? (Please check the category that comes closest to your total farm receipts. Include all receipts from the sale of crops, livestock, milk products, government payments and refunds, oil and gas leases, and income from custom work for other farms.) Do not include funds from AEPP
   □ Less than $10,000
   □ $10,000 to $24,999
   □ $25,000 to $49,999
   □ $50,000 to $99,999
   □ $100,000 to $249,999
   □ $250,000 to $499,999
   □ $500,000 and above

30. How have your farm’s receipts changed as a consequence of participating in the AEPP?
   □ Increased significantly
   □ Increased somewhat
   □ Stayed the same
   □ Decreased somewhat
   □ Decreased significantly

31. What proportion of your total household income comes from farm sources?
   □ All of our income is from farm sources (no off-farm or non-farm income)
   □ More than half of our income is from farm sources
   □ Our household income is evenly split between farm and off-farm sources
   □ Less than half is from the farm; most of our income is from off-farm sources (wages, salaries, pensions, income from non-farm businesses, or dividends and interest)
   □ Very little is from the farm; almost all of our income is from off-farm sources

32. Have you tried to obtain a loan since participating in AEPP?
   □ Yes
   □ No ➔ go to question 34

33. How do you think the fact that the land is protected affected your ability to obtain a loan?
☐ Very positive impact  
☐ Somewhat positive impact  
☐ No impact  
☐ Somewhat negative impact  
☐ Very negative impact

34. Are you employed in paid work off the farm (either full- or part-time)?  
☐ Yes  
☐ No

35. Do any other adult members of your household work at any regular off-farm job?  
☐ Yes  
☐ No

SECTION 8: FARM FUTURE PLANS  
We want to know your future plans as a result of participating in the AEPP

36. Do you PLAN to transfer the ownership or operation of the farm to a family member?  
☐ Yes  
☐ No

37. What will probably happen to this farm when you decide to retire or quit farming?  
(check the one category that best applies to you)  
☐ It’s too early to tell  
☐ Don’t know  
☐ A relative will take over the operation  
☐ I will keep the land, but rent the farm to another farmer  
☐ I will sell to another farmer (not a relative)  
☐ Other (please specify) __________________________

38. How many more years do you personally expect to continue farming?  
(Give your best estimate in years. If you plan to farm indefinitely or are not sure, check the appropriate circle to the right.)  
_____ years  ☐ rest of life  ☐ not sure

SECTION 9: BACKGROUND QUESTIONS:
Finally, we need to ask a few questions about your background. This information, as with all information provided on this survey, will remain strictly confidential.

39. How old are you?  _____ years

40. Are you:
   □ Single
   □ Married
   □ In a domestic partnership
   □ Divorced/Separated
   □ Widowed

41. Are you male or female?  □ Male    □ Female

42. How many children do you have? ____________________________

43. What is your highest level of formal education attained?
   □ Some high school, but no diploma
   □ High school graduate (includes equivalency)
   □ Some college (no degree), associate degree, or completed technical school program
   □ Bachelor’s degree
   □ Graduate or professional degree

44. What was the approximate range of your total household income in 2008?
   □ Less than $15,000
   □ $15,000 to $24,999
   □ $25,000 to $34,999
   □ $35,000 to $49,999
   □ $50,000 to $74,999
   □ $75,000 to $99,999
   □ $100,000 and over
SECTION 10: OTHER COMMENTS:

If you have any other comments that you would like to share with us at this time, please write them here (or on additional paper) and include them in the mailing envelope provided. If you wish to remain anonymous, don’t write your name.

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We would like to THANK YOU for taking the time to complete this survey. We know that you are busy and appreciate your help.