

# 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 → continue
  - 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 _____	_____ %
<b><u>Total</u></b>	<b><u>100 %</u></b>

5. **Why did you participate in the AEPP? (Please answer in the space below.)**

### SECTION 3: YOUR SATISFACTION WITH AEPP

- 6. On a scale of 1 to 7, how satisfied are you with the level of communication about the easement with ODA?**

Not Satisfied at all			Neutral			Very Satisfied
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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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)?**

Not Satisfied at all			Neutral			Very Satisfied
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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

Not Satisfied at all			Neutral			Very Satisfied
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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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?**

Not Successful at all		Neutral			Very Successful	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**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

- Milk  
 Dairy cattle (breeding stock)  
 Hogs  
 Beef  
 Sheep or Goats  
 Poultry  
 Horses  
 Other: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Other: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Other: \_\_\_\_\_

CROPS

- Corn (either grain or silage)  
 Hay or haylage  
 Soybeans  
 Small grains (oats, barley, etc.)  
 Vegetables (fresh or processing)  
 Tobacco  
 Nursery or Greenhouse crops  
 Fruit or orchard crops  
 Timber  
 Wheat  
 Christmas Trees  
 Sod  
 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?** \_\_\_\_\_ number

**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

<b>SECTION 10: OTHER COMMENTS:</b>
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**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 <b><u>THANK YOU</u></b> for taking the time to complete this survey. We know that you are busy and appreciate your help.