



## PRESS RELEASE

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### **Warren County Soil and Water Conservation District Receives Funding Through Local Agricultural Easement Purchase Program to Preserve Farmland**

Warren County, Ohio—The Ohio Department of Agriculture (ODA) selected Warren County Soil and Water Conservation District (District) as a local sponsor for the Local Agricultural Easement Purchase Program (LAEPP) and will provide more than \$300,000 in funding to help preserve farmland in the county.

LAEPP is a voluntary program in which landowners have the opportunity to sell agricultural easements on their land to the state of Ohio. The easement will guarantee the farm is protected and remains in agricultural production permanently. The application round for 2018 will open on January 18 and close on April 18. To be eligible the farm must be 40 acres or more, actively engaged in farming, participate in the Current Agricultural Use Valuation program, demonstrate good stewardship of the land, have the support of their local government and not lay directly in the path of development.

Landowners that are interested in selling an agricultural easement on their farm should contact the District to set up an in-person meeting to discuss their eligibility for the program. For more details, please visit our website at [WarrenSWCD.com](http://WarrenSWCD.com) or contact our office at (513)695-1337.

Funding for the program is derived from the Clean Ohio Conservation Fund, approved by voters in 2008. For more information on Ohio's farmland preservation effort visit: <http://www.agri.ohio.gov/divs/FarmLand/>.

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