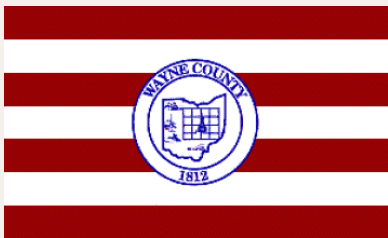


## Farms grow more than food.

Our farmland provides a host of environmental benefits and is the factory floor for the local economy:

- Wayne County's agricultural sector makes up **21% of the economy** and 15% of employment (The Ohio State University)
- The County is home to over 3500 farmers on 2,000 farms (OSU Census of Ag)
- Wayne County's local food economy is the **largest in Ohio** with over \$8 million in sales through farm stands and farmers markets, retailers, food hubs, institutions and other markets (American Farmland Trust)
- Wayne's Farms are mostly **Small & Midsized** which contribute to **local economy** and keep funds circulating in the community



2023

## "Wayne County is blessed with some of the best farmland in the world."

American Farmland Trust has mapped the entire country to identify the **best agricultural land** for food production and to identify threats from different types of development. 75% of Wayne County land is in agriculture and **81% of it is Nationally Significant**, which is an AFT description of the **most productive, versatile, and resilient farmland in the country.**



We want to help you  
"ewe" GROW in  
Wayne County!

## Farm Tools

Support Programs for  
Wayne County Farmers



---

Wayne County Planning Department

---

428 West Liberty St., Wooster, OH 44691

---

330-287-5420 | [AgPlan@WayneOhio.org](mailto:AgPlan@WayneOhio.org)

---

## Ag Security Areas

**Ag Security Areas, or ASAs**, create special areas where agriculture is encouraged and protected. ASAs provide benefits including protection from non-agricultural development and tax incentives for investments in structures used exclusively for agricultural purposes.

**Neighboring farms with at least 500 contiguous acres can request enrollment for a 10-year period.**

## Farmland Conservation

Landowners who wish to permanently protect their family's farm from development can do so with an **agricultural easement**. An easement is a voluntary and legally-binding restriction that limits the use of the land to agricultural activity. The land remains in private ownership, and can be sold or passed along as a gift at any time but the restriction prohibiting development stays with the land. An easement can be placed on the land now, or specified in the owner's will.

## Paid Easements

Wayne County is a local sponsor for the Ohio Department of Agriculture's **Clean Ohio Local Agricultural Easement Purchase Program (LAEPP)**. LAEPP provides funding to farmland owners for placing an agricultural easement on their property up to 75% of the appraised value of a farm's development rights, with a max of \$2,000 per acre. This is a competitive program open each January - March.

## Donated Easements

Organizations such as the **Killbuck Watershed Land Trust (KWLT)** and **Western Reserve Land Conservancy** can also help landowners put their property into permanent conservation with donated easements. This type of easement does not provide cash compensation, but can have fewer restrictions and will receive tax benefits.

- **KillbuckWatershedLandTrust.org**
- **WRLandConservancy.org**

---

**For more information or questions on any of these programs, contact:**  
**AgPlan@WayneOhio.org**  
**or call 330-287-5420**

## Resources

### New Farmers

The Ohio Ecological Food and Farm Associations' **Begin Farming Program** offers workshops, trainings, and support for those farming 10 years or less.

- **beginfarming.oeffa.org** or call 614-947-1610.

### Beginning Farmer Tax Credit

The Ohio Department of Agriculture offers two **income tax credits** for beginning farmers who attend a financial management program or individuals/businesses that sell or rent farmland, livestock, buildings, or equipment to beginning farmers

- **agri.ohio.gov/programs/farmland-preservation-office/Beginning-Farmer-Tax-Credit-Program**

### Connecting Farmers to Land

An online tool connecting those with, to those seeking, farmland.

- **heartlandfarmlink.org**

### Ohio's "Right to Farm" Law

Land that is devoted to agriculture can be placed in an Ag District to receive deferments on utilities and protection for farming activities. *This is a separate program from CAUV.*

- **waynecountyauditor.org**