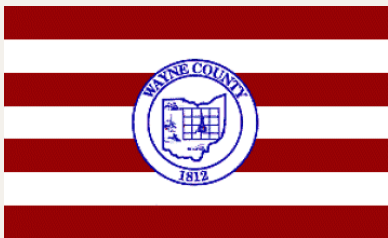


## Farms grow more than food.

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



2025

## "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!

## Farmland Preservation

Support Programs for Farmers



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Wayne County Planning Department

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428 West Liberty St., Wooster, OH 44691

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330-287-5422 | [AgPlan@WayneOhio.org](mailto:AgPlan@WayneOhio.org)

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## 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.**

## Ag Easements

Landowners who wish to permanently protect their farm from development can do so with an **agricultural easement**. An easement is a permanent and legally-binding restriction which forever limits the use of the land to predominantly 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 (ODA) **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

Landowners can permanently protect their property by donating development rights to the ODA's **Agricultural Easement Donation Program (AEDP)** or a private organization such as **Killbuck Watershed Land Trust (KWLT)** or the **Western Reserve Land Conservancy**. This type of easement does not provide compensation, but can have fewer restrictions and will receive tax benefits.

- [KillbuckWatershedLandTrust.org](http://KillbuckWatershedLandTrust.org)
- [WRLandConservancy.org](http://WRLandConservancy.org)
- [agri.ohio.gov/programs/farmland-preservation-office](http://agri.ohio.gov/programs/farmland-preservation-office)

## 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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://WayneCountyAuditor.org)

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**For more information on any of these programs, contact:**  
[AgPlan@WayneOhio.org](mailto:AgPlan@WayneOhio.org) or call 330-287-5422