

Agricultural Security Area (ASA)

Bureau of Farmland Preservation

Description

The Bureau administers the Agricultural Security Area, or ASA, program at the state level. ASAs are a tool for strengthening and protecting our quality farmland from the urbanization of rural areas.

It is voluntary for farmers/landowners. Petitions are submitted to township supervisors.

- They are reviewed every seven years however; new parcels of farmland may be added to an established ASA at any time.
- A minimum of 250 acres from among all the participating farmers is required.
- An ASA may include non-adjacent farmland parcels of at least ten acres or be able to produce \$2000 annually from the sale of agricultural products.
- Participants receive special consideration regarding:
 - Local ordinances affecting farming activities.
 - Nuisance complaints.
 - And review of farmland condemnation by state and local government agencies.
- An ASA qualifies land for consideration under the Easement Purchase Program at the landowner's request, if the ASA has at least 500 acres enrolled.

The benefits of enrollment are:

- Prerequisite for applying to the county farmland preservation program
- Protection against local nuisance ordinances related to farming activity
- Oversight in certain cases of eminent domain.

Contact

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