

AgNews



DELAWARE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
2320 South DuPont Highway, Dover, DE 19901

To: Newsroom Directors and Assignment Editors

For Immediate Release:
September 15, 2011

Contact

Anne Fitzgerald
800.282.8685 (DE only)
302.698.4520
302.242.4092 (Cell)

Aglands Foundation announces results of farmland preservation Public Round 16

Following a September 14, 2011 Foundation meeting, Austin Short, Deputy Secretary of Agriculture and Bob Garey, Chairman of the Agricultural Lands Preservation Foundation, announced the Foundation's preservation selections for Round 16 of the program. According to Short and Garey, 47 out of 89 farms that applied were selected by the Foundation. These selections will permanently preserve more than 5,100 acres of prime, Delaware farmland. Additional Round 16 selections will be made by New Castle and Kent Counties and will be announced in October.

Funding for these permanent easements was provided by the state and federal governments.

"I am pleased that we were able to provide a level of funding that will enable Delaware to continue to be a national leader in farmland preservation. With 686 farms permanently preserved covering 5,100 acres, our state leads the nation in farmland preserved per capita. We are helping to make Delaware's \$8 billion agricultural industry profitable while enriching our quality of life for generations to come."

Ed Kee, Delaware Secretary of Agriculture, said, "This round's average discount is 70%, a real testament to the owners' commitment to preservation. As Secretary, and as a Delawarean, I salute these owners and all who have gone before them to preserve our vital agricultural land and our rich agricultural heritage. I also want to thank the Agricultural Lands Preservation Foundation for their continuing hard work and dedication as they continue to shepherd this ongoing program and the new "Young Farmers' Program that opens for applications on September 15."

###