

AgNews



DELAWARE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
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Aglands Foundation announces results of Public Round 11

On May 10, the Delaware Agricultural Lands Preservation Foundation met to finalize the selections for Public Round 11. Twenty –one out of forty-two farms that applied were selected. This round will permanently preserve 2,373.37 acres of farmland at a cost of \$15,432,148.83. Funding for Round 11 was provided by the State, Kent County, the Sussex County Land Trust, and the federal government. Once the selections go to settlement, this round will bring Delaware’s total number of acres permanently preserved by Delaware’s agricultural lands preservation program to 82,317.

The nationally acclaimed Delaware Agricultural Lands Preservation Program was formed with the adoption of House Bill 200 in July, 1991. Thanks to Governor Minner and the Delaware General Assembly the Program received a real boost last year when they established a permanent funding source for Farmland Preservation - \$10 million per year. The program also receives matching funds from the federal government, the Counties, along with private trusts like the Sussex County Land Trust.

Delaware is first in the percentage of land that is permanently preserved with 6.4 percent. Maryland has 3.8 percent preserved, New Jersey has 2.8 percent preserved, and Pennsylvania has 1.0 percent preserved. Delaware is also first in per capita spending on farmland preservation at \$124 per person. Maryland is at \$61 per person; New Jersey is at \$55 per person; and Pennsylvania is at \$51 per person.

Michael Scuse, Delaware Secretary of Agriculture said, “As a farmer, a horseman, and a sportsman, I want to thank Delaware’s farmers, Governor Minner, and the General Assembly for their commitment to farmland preservation and a more “Livable Delaware.” I also want to thank the Agricultural Lands Preservation Foundation trustees for their continued commitment to preserving our irreplaceable farmland. Agriculture is Delaware’s number one industry. Protecting this industry sustains our economy. Preserving this land also protects our quality of life and critical habitat for future generations.”

Itemized list of selections is available upon request.

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