

Maintaining Agriculture as an Industry,





# A Way of Life, and...





# A Landscape in Chester County







# County Initiatives

- Open Space Department
- Department of Community Development
- Planning Commission
- Greenhouse Gas Reduction Taskforce
- Agricultural Development Council





# Chester County Open Space Department

Chester County is ranked **fifth nationally** in farmland preservation with a total of preserved agricultural acres of just over 58,700 acres.

(As of December 31, 2009 approximately 112,500 acres or 23.2% of the County has been preserved in total.)



# Chester County Department of Community Development



Community Revitalization Program





Bringing growth and preservation together for Chester County

## Chester County Comprehensive Policy Plan



Farmland  
Preservation

Mitigating Land Use  
Conflicts

Agricultural  
Education, Outreach  
and Advocacy

Farm Transitions

Agricultural  
Infrastructure

Farm Labor

Transportation

Technology

Energy



# Vision Partnership Program

Work with municipalities to:

- Encourage compatible land uses.
- Revise plans and ordinances to better support agricultural uses.





- Provide funding for Revitalization Plans.
- Target growth towards the urban centers.



# **Chester County Greenhouse Gas Reduction Report**

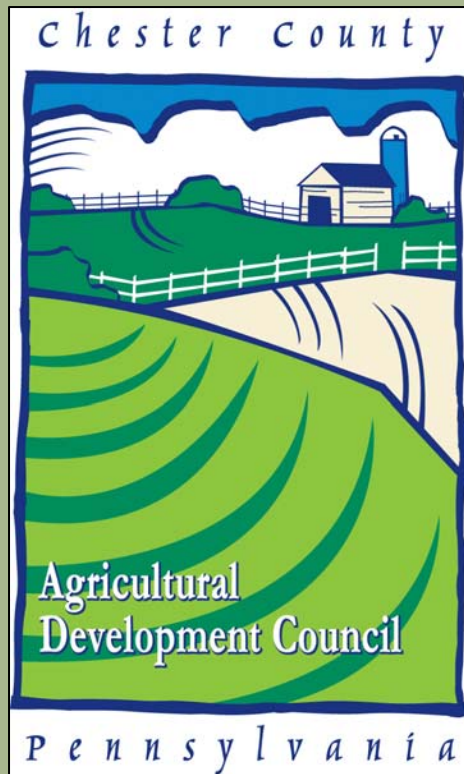
**May 2010**

**Woodlands  
Local Food Production  
Mushrooms  
Arable Crops  
Dairy and Livestock  
Green Industry  
Carbon Credits  
Woody Biomass**





# The Chester County Agricultural Development Council (ADC)

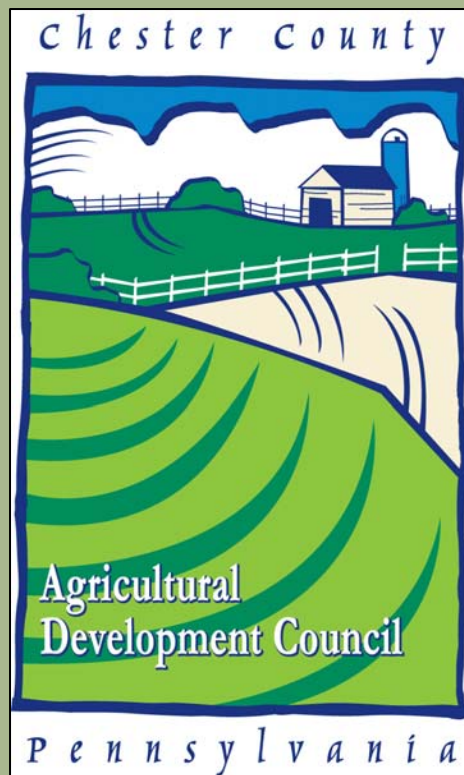


The Chester County Agricultural Development Council's purpose is to:

- Help Chester County farmers continue to farm while encouraging additional agricultural opportunities.
- Create an environment to attract new farmers and agricultural activities.
- Educate residents and municipal officials.
- And partner with others to help resolve problems and issues related to agriculture.



# ADC Work Program



- Community Outreach – to educate the general public on the importance of agriculture.
- Municipal Outreach – to educate and work with municipal officials on how to integrate and/or continue to promote agriculture as a land use and viable industry through regulatory land use tools.
- Partnership Committee – that inventories the agricultural situation in the County and looks at issues affecting agriculture.



# Community Outreach Initiatives

The ADC partners with the Chester County Buy Fresh Buy Local chapter (administered by PASA) to create an annual food guide. The guide includes features, as well as a map, showing where consumers can find local food.





# Municipal Outreach Initiatives



# Partnership Committee Initiatives







Chester County  
**Economic  
Development  
Council**

The Chester County Economic Development Council is a 50-year old nonprofit organization whose mission is to encourage smart economic growth and prosperity in Chester County.

Sister organizations exist in each PA county – some are public sector, some also nonprofit – offering similar programs and services.

Economic Development Financing for Agriculture – tapping PA loan programs that were opened up to agricultural producers in last 5-10 years.

- Special program for first-time farm buyers – CCEDC has funded 64 new farms in SE PA in last three years.
- Programs also available for existing farmers looking to buy land, construct or renovate buildings or purchase machinery & equipment.



Chester County  
**Economic  
Development  
Council**

## Workforce Development – Southeastern PA Agriculture Partnership

Provides training opportunities for farmers and ag and food professionals in SE PA.

- Examples: advanced cheesemaking, improving farm profitability, conferences like PASA, North American Direct Farm Market Association.
- Looking at growing the youth pipeline into agriculture through career showcases, support for regional activities.



# Contact Information

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