

## 2014 LAEPP Announcements

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**06/12/2014:** Congratulations **2014 LAEPP Local Sponsors** and landowners!

The Ohio Farmland Preservation Advisory Board has recommended and Ohio Department of Agriculture's (ODA) Director Daniels has approved the selection of the farms shown on the Cumulative Exhibit D Report (posted under 2014 Local Sponsor Resources as *Approved 2014 LAEPP Landowner Applications*) for the 2014 Local Agricultural Easement Program (LAEPP).

Please refer to the attached LAEPP 2014 Process Steps document for the duration of the process. Remember that these steps are available on our website with other useful tools under [2014 LAEPP Local Sponsor Resources](#).

We are now at step *L, Local Sponsor sends Notices of Selection to landowners*. Send one of the two Notices of Selection (*full* or *Contingent*, both templates available online) on your organization's letterhead to all approved landowners and send ODA the **original** when the landowner has signed the form and committed to sell an agricultural easement on their farm. Before preparing your Notices of Selection, you may want to refer to our [Guidelines for LAEPP 2014 Notices of Selection](#) document, also available under 2014 LAEPP Local Sponsor Resources. Remember also that if using a template other than the attached, ODA must review it prior to sending to your landowner(s).

**Send** all landowners highlighted in yellow and orange on the Cumulative Exhibit D Report a Notice of Selection or Contingent Notice of Selection by ***July 29, 2014***.

**Submit** all completed Notices of Selection and Contingent Notices of Selection to ODA by ***August 28, 2014***.

After the landowner(s) sign full Notices of Selection and the originals are received by ODA, you may proceed with ordering the title search and title commitment (step *M, Local Sponsor orders title search and Title Commitment and forwards to ODA for Legal review*). Details about title search and commitment requirements can be found in the Scope of Work of your [ODA-Local Sponsor 2014 LAEPP Cooperative Agreement](#).

Please do consider working through LAEPP agricultural easements using the [Steps](#) document ó you may find them a valuable resource as we work through the process. If you have any questions or want me to review any Notices of Selection, please contact me at 614-728-6214 or [abennett@agri.ohio.gov](mailto:abennett@agri.ohio.gov). Thank you.

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**05/20/2014:** Important Information for applying for federal matching dollars on **2014 LAEPP** farms

If you plan on participating in the upcoming [ACEP-ALE](#) (formerly FRPP) funding round with NRCS by completing an ACEP-ALE Entity Application (CPA 41) using funds your organization has been awarded from the Ohio Department of Agriculture (ODA) as matching funds, please see info below:

1. NRCS requires ODA to sign Step 7 of the CPA 41 as a co-holder.
2. On Step 7, enter ODA's Tax ID Number (31-6402047) and DUNS Number (808847628).
3. Email ([jody.bowen@agri.ohio.gov](mailto:jody.bowen@agri.ohio.gov)), fax (614/752-2282) or mail (address below) the completed form. Forward to ODA only the five pages of the completed CPA 41.
4. The completed CPA 41 forms should be at ODA no later than June 2, 2014. If you will not be able to make this June 2<sup>nd</sup> deadline, contact our office.

We have coordinated the following process with Matt Harbage at NRCS:

5. Local Sponsors should forward to NRCS all of the documents they require for this application when it is ready including the CPA 41 awaiting ODA signature by their June 6, 2014 deadline.
6. ODA will forward the ODA signed CPA 41 applications via email to Matt Harbage at NRCS after the LAEPP 2014 farms have been approved by our Advisory Board and ODA Director. We anticipate that this will be June 6, 2014. Local Sponsors will also receive a copy of this email.
7. NRCS Cooperative Agreements with [LAEPP 2013](#) can be forwarded to ODA for completion as well. The CPA 41 forms with ONLY LAEPP 2013 easements can be signed ASAP since these farms have already been approved for funding by ODA.

NOTE: If your organization plans on applying for ACEP funds using ODA funds as matching dollars and also applying for ACEP without using ODA matching funds, you will need to have two 2014 NRCS Cooperative Agreements. One cooperative agreement with ODA funds and one NRCS Cooperative Agreement for easements not using ODA funds.

We are excited to be working with you in the upcoming funding round and with your application to NRCS to further your preservation efforts in your area.

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**04/18/2014:** We hope you all were able to participate in the conference call hosted by NRCS discussing their Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP ó formerly FRPP). We appreciate Matt Harbage with NRCS keeping us informed throughout the process. ACEP's next conference call is scheduled for 10:00 am on April 30, 2014.

Another successful application round has closed and we are processing all of the applications we have received thus far. Remember these important deadlines coming up:

- April 30, 2014 ó All hardcopy applications must be at ODA. Keep sending your Exhibit D and electronic photographs to [farmlandpres@agri.ohio.gov](mailto:farmlandpres@agri.ohio.gov).
- June 5, 2014 ó The Ohio Farmland Preservation Advisory Board will be meeting at Stratford Ecological Center to review all hardcopy applications and make

recommendations to the Director of ODA for funding. We encourage you to attend this meeting to answer any questions that the Board may have about your landowner applications.

- June 9, 2014 (approx.) ó After the Director reviews the Board's recommendations, we will notify you of the approved list of landowner applications.
- June 10 ó August 28, 2014 ó Once the Local Sponsor receives their approved list of landowner applications, they can begin preparing and sending ODA Notices of Selection to landowners.

Thank you for yet another successful LAEPP application period. As always, should you have any questions, don't hesitate to contact us. We hope to see you at the Advisory Board meeting on June 5<sup>th</sup>.

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**03/28/2014:** Note to local sponsors: the [2014 LAEPP Process Steps](#) have recently been updated to include a note about the requesting the Purchase Agreement and Draft Deed from ODA.

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**03/13/2014:** With about a month left to go on your landowner application periods (access to the landowner application on ODA's website ends on **April 15, 2014**), we wish to remind you that hardcopy landowner applications can be submitted to our office at any time between now and **April 30, 2014**. You are encouraged to *over-submit* landowner applications in hardcopy, as those are the only ones that can be recommended for funding approval by the Ohio Farmland Preservation Advisory Board.

Also remember that if any of your landowners wish to apply with a Large or Small Farm Exception (as explained in the [Guidelines and Policies document](#)), those exceptions must be granted by the Director before the end of the application period.

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**03/11/2014:** The 2014 Farm Bill will bring about changes to the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)-Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Easement programs. The Agricultural Easement Conservation Program (ACEP) consolidates three former USDA-NRCS programs, including the Federal Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program (FRPP). We will update this page as more information becomes available, but below are some links to information regarding what we know right now.

NRCS ó 2014 Farm Bill ó ACEP:

<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/national/programs/farmland/?cid=stelprdb1242695>

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**01/15/2014:** The landowner application for the 2014 Local Agricultural Easement Purchase Program (LAEPP) will be available to Certified Local Sponsors. The [2014 Guidelines and Policies](#) as well as other program materials can be found on the Clean Ohio LAEPP page at [www.agri.ohio.gov/farmland](http://www.agri.ohio.gov/farmland).

In addition to the Local Sponsor Training presentation outlining the 2014 landowner application, local sponsors will find the application site's [Frequently Asked Questions](#) (FAQs) updated throughout the landowner application process.

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**10/28/2013:** Updated FAQs have been posted for the Application for Local Sponsor Certification. See 2014 LAEPP Local Sponsor Materials page and click on [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQs\) for Local Sponsor Application for Certification](#).