

Agricultural Services

CHESTER
COUNTY, PA





*Pete's Produce Farm
Westtown Township*

Chester County Agricultural Services

Chester County is committed to preserving, assisting and promoting agriculture. The County offers tax abatement, technical assistance and more to farmers and landowners, and helps inform residents about and connect them to local farm products. The agricultural industry is very important to Chester County as it provides local food, goods and services, and employment opportunities while preserving open space and maintaining the county's agricultural heritage.

*Cover photo:
Two Gander Farm in East Brandywine Township*



Chester County Agricultural Development Council

The Agricultural Development Council (Ag Council) raises awareness of the economic impact of the local farming industry and promotes excellence in farming. It assists county farmers in marketing their businesses, helps create an environment to attract new farmers, and informs residents and municipal officials about the importance of local agriculture. The Ag Council, through its Ag Task Force, partners with other agricultural service providers and producers to collectively address agricultural issues.

www.chescofarming.org
www.chesco/agdev
610-344-6285
e-mail: adc@chesco.org

AGRICULTURAL SERVICES

A Guide to Local Farm Products

A printed brochure updated annually to help people find local farm products.

Farm and Table Tales

An on-line consumer series hosted in partnership with a task force.

Excellence Awards

A Farmer of the Year award and a Distinguished Service to Agriculture award.

Farming Facts Info Sheets

Information and data on a wide range of topics from Pennsylvania agricultural legislation to raising backyard chickens.



Meghan Klotzbach of Mother Earth Organic Mushrooms in West Grove Borough



Chester County Assessment Office

The mission of the Assessment Office is to provide real property valuation, tax roll certification and data distribution services to Chester County property owners, taxing authorities and other customers who rely on property data to carry out their business activities.

www.chesco.org/assessment
610-344-6105

AGRICULTURAL SERVICES

Clean and Green Program

The Assessment Office administers Act 319, the PA Farmland and Forest Land Assessment Act, commonly referred to as "Clean and Green", that provides tax relief to owners of agricultural parcels greater than 10 acres in area with a minimum gross yearly agricultural income of \$2,000. Land assessment is based on the agricultural use value of the land according to the productivity of the soil.





CHESTER COUNTY
CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Chester County Conservation District

The Chester County Conservation District's mission is to conserve soil for clean water by promoting sustainable use of natural resources through education and technical assistance. It works with landowners and land users to conserve the natural resources of the county.

www.chesco.org/Conservation
610-925-4920
e-mail: ccsoil@chesco.org

AGRICULTURAL SERVICES

Conservation Planning

Staff works with farmers and local citizens in developing and implementing conservation programs.

Chesapeake Bay Program

The District provides technical assistance and design services to farmers within the Chesapeake Bay watershed to help meet Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) goals.

Erosion and Sedimentation Control

The District administers the Pennsylvania Chapter 102 Erosion and Sediment Control and National Pollutant Discharge Elimination (NPDES) Permitting Program.



Paige LaDuca surveying for a stream crossing on a farm in West Sadsbury Township



**Chester County
Parks + Preservation**
EXPLORE NATURE. HERITAGE. COMMUNITY

Chester County Parks + Preservation

While the Parks + Preservation Department offers many services related to open space preservation and county park programs, they also work diligently to specifically protect county farmland. Staff and the Agricultural Land Preservation Board (ALPB) work with local landowners and land trust partners through the Commonwealth's Agricultural Conservation Easement Purchase Program and the Chester County Challenge Grant Program to purchase agricultural conservation easements to permanently protect farmland and the important underlying soils. These preservation efforts are intended to ensure the long-term viability of the agricultural industry.

www.chescoparkspres.org

610-344-5656

e-mail: parkspres@chesco.org

AGRICULTURAL SERVICES

Farmland Protection

With the Agricultural Land Preservation Board (ALPB), the department works with landowners and land trust partners to permanently protect farmland and the important underlying soils.

Stewardship

Coordinators provide assistance to landowners and promote the implementation of best management practices on preserved land.





Chester County Planning Commission

The Chester County Planning Commission provides planning services to county municipalities. The Planning Commission is also responsible for developing and updating the county comprehensive plan. Landscapes3, the comprehensive plan adopted in 2018, contains policies for agricultural land preservation and for the industry as an economic driver.

www.chescoplanning.org
610-344-6285
e-mail: planning@chesco.org

AGRICULTURAL SERVICES

Municipal Planning

Staff can prepare agricultural policies in a municipal comprehensive plan and develop agricultural zoning language and other industry provisions and protections.

Agricultural Security Area (ASA) Program

Parcels added or removed from a municipality's ASA program are tracked and every seven years a "census" of a municipality's participating parcels is completed.

Planning Tools

Planning documents and tools are published and maintained on industry topics, such as agricultural easements and farmworker housing.





**Chester County
Board of Commissioners**

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Prepared by the
Chester County Planning Commission

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