

Thomas S. Devilbiss, Director
410-386-2949, fax 410-386-2924
Toll-free 1-888-302-8978
MD Relay service 7-1-1/1-800-735-2258
LRM@ccg.carr.org



**Department of
Land and Resource Management**
Carroll County Government
225 North Center Street
Westminster, Maryland 21157

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Deborah Bowers,
Program Manager
410 386-2214

NEW APPLICATIONS FOR AG LAND PRESERVATION DUE BY AUG. 22

Westminster, MD, Thursday, July 12, 2018 - The Carroll County Agricultural Land Preservation Program is beginning a new application cycle and is now accepting applications through August 22, 2018.

Owners of at least 60 acres of farm or forestland can find an [application on the program's website](#), or call 410 386-2214. Owners of less than 60 acres may also apply if they meet additional criteria. Call 410 386-2214 for more information.

The program will have approximately \$5 million for the fiscal year 2019, according to Program Manager Deborah Bowers. Four programs are currently available to farms that qualify: the county's own [Agricultural Land Preservation Program](#); the Critical Farms Program, which provides financial assistance to buyers of qualified farms; the [Rural Legacy Program](#), funded through Maryland Department of Natural Resources grants; and the [Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation Program](#).

"Carroll County farm owners have a choice of programs depending on the location and size of their property. Except for the Rural Legacy Program, farms must have at least 50 percent of soils in good productive capability, and all farms must have development potential. We are expecting some good farms to come into the program," Bowers said. "We've had many inquiries from owners of large properties in all parts of the county."

The county's farmland preservation effort ranks in the top five most successful such efforts in the United States and is the top program in the State of Maryland. More than 71,000 acres have been preserved in Carroll County since farmland protection began in 1980.

A volunteer Advisory Board comprised of five farm owners advises on policy matters. The program will have a booth at the Carroll County 4-H Fair to provide information.

###

ACCESSIBILITY NOTICE: The Americans with Disabilities Act applies to the Carroll County Government and its programs, services, activities, and facilities. Anyone requiring an auxiliary aid or service for effective communication or who has a complaint should contact The Americans with Disabilities Act Coordinator, 410.386.3800, 1.888.302.8978, MD Relay 7-1-1/1.800.735.2258 or email ada@ccg.carr.org as soon as possible but no later than 72 hours before the scheduled event