

FARM LANDOWNER ACTIONS

ENCOURAGED BY

ACT 43 – 1981



1. Read and analyze Act 43 and its regulations.
2. Discuss opportunities and concerns about Act 43 with neighboring farm landowners.
3. Ask questions of people who “really know” about the Act.
4. Identify other farm landowners that want to form an Agricultural Area.
5. Develop an Agricultural Area Petition. Check with local government officials for their needs and suggestions. Work from the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture’s sample petition.
6. Other Petition Considerations:
 - a. Size – Is this the largest area possible? Has anyone been missed?
 - b. Have arrangements been made to cover any expenses involved.
 - c. When Farmland is located in more than one municipality, should the petition show one large area covering all municipalities, or an Agricultural Area in each municipality?
 - d. Consider adding the statement “it is the intent of the undersigned to participate if an Ag Security Area is created” to the Department of Agriculture’s form.
 - e. Who will do the required mapping?
 - f. Who will present the petition to local officials?

Comments to consider when presenting petition.

1. This group of _____ landowners owning _____ acres requests that an area be designated an Ag Security Area because _____ (list as many reasons as the group can develop).
2. Offer to assist local officials in study and discussion.
3. Indicate those in group who would be willing to serve on the Ag Area Advisory Committee, if asked.
4. Indicate that additional assistance is available during the review process, e.g. Extension, County Planning, SCS and others.
5. Develop individual side-agreements, as needed, with other petitioning farm landowners.
6. Help local officials to meet the various procedural deadlines.

For more information about Legislation for Farmland Retention, please contact your County Cooperative Extension Office.