

## FAIRFIELD COUNTY FARMLAND PRESERVED

Two dedicated farm families from Fairfield County recently finalized their agricultural easements. Roger Wolfe, a farmland preservation advocate and soil conservationist, signed papers to permanently protect 207 acres inside of an Agricultural Security Area in Walnut Township. "I think programs like this give the next generation the encouragement they need to invest in the business of agriculture," said Wolfe.

Part of that next generation of conservationists and farmers include Joe and Azure Koehler of Richland Township who signed over the development rights on their 131 acres along Little Rushcreek gorge. "I can't imagine not farming and this is one way to ensure that this farm always stays in agriculture production," said Joe.

Preserved farmland protects prime soils and woodlands, improves water quality, and enhances wildlife habitat. Protecting these resources benefits us all.

The Fairfield County Commissioners, Ohio Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service, and the Fairfield Soil and Water Conservation District all share a role in the future monitoring and protection of these resources sponsored by the Clean Ohio Agricultural Easement Purchase Program.



Azure and Joe Koehler and Roger Wolfe displaying their Ohio Preserved Farmland signs after being accepted into the Agricultural Easement Purchase Program.