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**AMERICAN FARMLAND TRUST HONORS DOUG WOLFGANG  
WITH PENNSYLVANIA FARMLAND PRESERVATION LOCAL HEROES AWARD**

*Washington, D.C.*—Doug Wolfgang, Director of the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture’s Bureau of Farmland Preservation is being honored with the Pennsylvania Farmland Preservation Local Heroes Award. This award is in recognition of his outstanding efforts to further the mission of the [Pennsylvania Farmland Preservation Association](#) by protecting the farms, natural resources and waters of the Commonwealth.

“Having grown up on a grain farm in Schuylkill County, Doug understands implicitly the value of keeping farmland in agriculture permanently. Farmland is the key resource that farmers must have to be able to provide food, fiber and bio-fuels,” says Jim Baird, Mid-Atlantic Director for American Farmland Trust (AFT). “However, farmland is not just a component of the economic health of the community, it’s also key to environmental benefits for communities—such as helping to meet state water quality goals. Since 1998, Doug has worked diligently to continually adapt and improve the effectiveness and efficiency of farmland preservation programs at both county and state levels.”

“Pennsylvania leads the nation with more than 4,000 farms and 450,000 acres of farmland preserved,” said Agriculture Secretary George Greig, who attended the award ceremony just hours after being installed to his post. “Much of the program’s success is due to the good work of Doug Wolfgang who has been with the bureau for more than a decade and has served as its director since 2007. Under his direct leadership, we have added more than 1,000 farms and 102,000 additional acres that will be secured for agricultural use forever. We commend Doug for

helping reach these milestones and are pleased to have him as a member of the Agriculture Department team.”

“AFT has a long history of working with Pennsylvanians, as the state is a pioneer in the field of farmland preservation. This year, as AFT celebrates its 30th anniversary as the national leader in farmland protection and policy work, we wanted to celebrate the local heroes who make farmland protection possible,” adds Baird.

“We want to celebrate the people who are the basis of our success in Pennsylvania: the farmers, landowners and citizens who contribute long hours, expertise and wisdom—and enormous economic investment to preserve their land from unplanned development while keeping the farmland and their communities healthy,” Baird continued.

The award is given by AFT in conjunction with Pennsylvania Farmland Preservation Association (PFPA), a non-profit, nonpartisan statewide association of conservation easement professionals dedicated to promoting and enhancing the interests of agricultural land preservation in Pennsylvania, at their bi-annual meetings. PFPA provides technical training to develop skills and resources for the organization’s members, promotes standards among the farmland preservation sector, and provides comments on programs, regulations and legislation.

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*American Farmland Trust is the nation’s leading conservation organization dedicated to saving America’s farm and ranch land, promoting environmentally sound farming practices and supporting a sustainable future for farms. Since its founding in 1980 by a group of farmers and citizens concerned about the rapid loss of farmland to development, AFT has helped save millions of acres of farmland from development and led the way for the adoption of conservation practices on millions more. AFT’s national office is located in Washington, DC. Phone: 202-331-7300. For more information, visit [www.farmland.org](http://www.farmland.org).*