Sussex County Council is proud to offer this guide to landowners who wish to preserve their farmland, woodlands and wetlands (or other qualifying tracts) for generations to come.

This pamphlet contains a sampling of federal, state, local and private cost-share, easement and preservation programs that are available to landowners in Sussex County.
**USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service**

**Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program** - Purchase of agricultural conservation easements. Lands must be threatened and hold agricultural significance.

**Wetlands Reserve Program** - Controls wetland losses nationwide through permanent and 30-year easements; 10-year minimum restoration cost-shares available.

(302) 856-3990 ext. 3  
(302) 678-4182  
www.de.nrcs.usda.gov/programs

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**US Fish & Wildlife Service (Partners for Fish and Wildlife)**

- Encourages voluntary habitat restoration on private lands to benefit Federal Trust Species
- Wetlands and estuary habitat management for minimum 10 years
- Includes financial and technical assistance to landowners

(410) 573-4500 or 573-4543  
www.fws.gov/par

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**US Forest Service**

**Forest Legacy Program**

- Assists states in securing conservation easements for threatened lands
- Minimum 75% forest cover required
- Land is protected as working forest

(302) 698-4500  
www.fs.fed.us

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**Delaware Agricultural Lands Preservation Foundation (Delaware Department of Agriculture)**

**Preservation Districts** - Agricultural easements include farmlands, historic structures and wildlife habitats

- Exemptions from real estate transfer fees, county and school taxes
- Protection from nuisance complaints
- Partnership with Sussex County Council provides funding support for program

(302) 698-4530  
www.dda.delaware.gov/aglands

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**Sussex Conservation District**

**Agricultural Cost-Share** - Incentives for numerous programs, including cover crops, erosion control and animal waste

- Up to 75% payments and 15-year contracts on most practices

**Tax Ditch Maintenance** - 50% cost-share for maintenance and repair

(302) 856-3990 ext. 3  
www.sussexconservation.org

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**The Nature Conservancy of Delaware**

- Accepts donations of land and conservation easements in public-private partnerships
- Provides natural lands management services

(302) 684-5348  
www.tnc.org/delaware

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**Ducks Unlimited**

- Conservation easement programs
- Habitat restoration programs with cost share
- Program for land acquisitions and donated properties

(410) 224-6620  
www.ducks.org