



**Commit To Protecting Our Rural Future, One Field At A Time**

**What’s An Agricultural & Forestal District (AFD)?**

Landowners throughout the County have made the commitment to keep their land in farming or forestry by joining the Agricultural & Forestal District (AFD) program. In this program, a landowner voluntarily commits to keeping their land in agricultural or forestry production for ten years. There are 18 Agricultural & Forestal Districts in the County with over 39,000 acres enrolled. This is a voluntary program and landowners can remove property from it during renewals or upon special approval by the Board of Supervisors.

Landowners enrolled in the program forego the option to subdivide and develop the tracts during this 10-year period. In exchange, those areas are protected as “right to farm” regions, with protection against government interference in their farming and forestry operations and other benefits.

**Benefits:**

- Preserves rural character and ag heritage by maintaining open space.
- Protects lower tax rates if the Board eliminates the land-use program.
- Some protection against eminent domain.
- Protects against County imposing nuisance ordinances that might limit farming practices like noise or dusting.
- Protect against new special taxing districts for sewer, water, or electricity.
- Allows for heirs to pull land out of the District within 2 years of passing.

**Agricultural & Forestal District Renewals**

| Renewal Year | District             | Acres | Renewal Year | District                  | Acres  |
|--------------|----------------------|-------|--------------|---------------------------|--------|
| 2024         | Woodstock West       | 4,240 | 2028         | Fishers Hill - Sandy Hook | 2,614  |
| 2025         | Wakemans Grove       | 5,509 | 2028         | Toms Brook                | 1,034  |
| 2026         | Coal Mine Hollow     | 274   | 2029         | New Market                | 2,455  |
| 2026         | Columbia Furnace     | 1,151 | 2030         | Woodstock East            | 718    |
| 2026         | Lebanon Church       | 870   | 2032         | Mount Jackson             | 14,737 |
| 2026         | Liberty Furnace      | 1,565 | 2033         | Jerome                    | 432    |
| 2026         | St. Luke             | 691   | 2033         | Orkney Springs            | 1,161  |
| 2027         | Ridgeley             | 1,277 | 2033         | Mill Creek                | 915    |
| 2028         | Bauserman-Clem-Grove | 833   | 2033         | Morning Star              | 740    |

For more information, contact:  
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