

**Certification of County Agricultural Land Preservation Programs**  
**Re-Certification Request – Calvert County**  
**(Report Summary dated November 27, 2002)**

**ATTRIBUTES OF LOCAL PROGRAM**

- Local Purchase and Retirement Program (PDR- Purchase of Development Rights).
- Transfer of Development Rights Program (TDR).
- Leveraging and Retirement.
- MALPF Participation.
- 100% tax credit on land in Agricultural Preservation Districts.
- Enacted a local Right to Farm Ordinance.

**QUALIFYING EXPENDITURES AND USE OF CERTIFICATION FUNDS**

- The County meets the certification requirements for qualifying expenditures and use of certification funds and has provided a record of revenues and expenditures.

**PROGRAM ACCOMPLISHMENTS DURING THE REPORTING PERIOD**

**IN FY 2001**

- As of June 29, 2001, 12 properties added or enrolled 1,420.6 acres in Agricultural Preservation Districts in Calvert County, with 162 acres in 4 State Districts, bringing the County's cumulative total to 23,836.65 acres.
- With that figure, the County has achieved 59.6% of the 40,000 acres enrollment goal in the County set in 2000.
- As far as acreage preserved through the County, 2,005.59 acres were recorded as preserved by the County, State, or Rural Legacy programs, bringing the permanent total of preserved farm and forest land to 16,636 acres, or 41.6% of the objective. This does not include 800 acres of land bought by the Nature Conservancy that will belong to the State in the future.

**IN FY 2002**

- In FY 2002, 923.59 acres in Agricultural Preservation Districts were enrolled, bringing the County's cumulative total to 25,075.29 acres. With that figure, the County has achieved 62.7% of the acreage objective of 40,000 acres enrollment goal in the County set in 2000.
- As far as acreage preserved through the County, 2,554.26 acres were recorded as preserved by the County, State, or Rural Legacy programs, increasing the County's total farm and forest preservation to 19,190 acres, or 47% of 40,000 acres.
- Local programs accounted for 1471.6 acres in 17 districts, and local land trusts were instrumental in saving one district and acting as easement holders for Rural Legacy.

**EVALUATION OF COUNTY'S ANNUAL REPORT**

- County has a goal of preserving 40,000 acres set in 2000 and continues its efforts towards preserving 1,275 acres of farm and forest land yearly.
- The County still seeks to preserve most of its 56,000 acre farm and forest resource base in order to reduce and channel growth in an affordable manner and to retain the productive rural character of the County.
- The County uses MALPF, Rural Legacy and local PAR program. The County also uses TDRs and has the new LAR program. The County also has a no-interest \$1 million revolving loan funds for use by its four private land trusts to buy properties under immediate threat or development.
- Calvert County completed its review of the County Zoning Code for current Special Exceptions and Permitted Uses in local Agriculture Preservation Districts which will foster transitional uses and increased economical viability in a changing agricultural climate.
- The County continues to participate in the 60-40 match program for purchase of easements on

State Districts through MALPF and partner applications for preservation funding through federal programs and the State Tobacco Master Settlement agreement.

- The County participates in all Rural Legacy application cycles. The County expanded its Rural Legacy application to include Calvert Creeks Legacy Area.
- Residential conversion in areas designated for preservation has slowed, down from 106 lots in major and minor subdivision outside of Districts in FY 2001 to 81 lots in FY 2002.
- Last February, the Commissioners committed \$822,850 over the next five years to promoting the direct sale of local farm products through an expanded and improved farmers' market in the center of the County.

**FOUNDATION STAFF RECOMMENDATION:**

- The County program appears likely to be successful in supporting viable agricultural operations and preserving agricultural land in perpetuity. The County is committed to its efforts to preserve 1,275 acres annually of the County's farm and forest land and to find even more ways to stretch the monies received from State funding sources. Staff recommends approval of re-certification for another two year term.