About the ASA Program

Agricultural Security Areas are a tool to protect farms and farmland from non-agricultural uses. ASAs are intended to promote viable farming operations over the long term by strengthening the farming community’s right to farm. Pennsylvania took the first step toward protecting farmland when it enacted the Agricultural Security Area Act (PA Act 43) in 1985.

Local municipalities create ASAs in cooperation with individual landowners, who agree to collectively place at least 250 acres in an agricultural security area. Landowners initiate the process of creating an ASA by petitioning their municipality, which approves the application in accordance with Act 43. The municipality is responsible for renewing the area every seven years. Participation is voluntary. New farm parcels may be added to or removed from an established ASA at any time. (Centre County Government)