

**BLAIR COUNTY AGRICULTURAL LAND PRESERVATION BOARD**  
**MINIMUM CRITERIA FOR APPLICATIONS**

The farmland tract must:

- (1) Be located in a duly established Agricultural Security Area, which has at least 500 acres enrolled.
  
- (2) Be at contiguous acres of at least 50 acres in size unless the tract is at least 10 acres in size and is either utilized for a crop unique to the area and has been utilized for this crop for a minimum of 5 of the last 7 years, or is contiguous to a property which has a perpetual conservation easement in place which is held by a “qualified conservation organization,” as that term is defined at section 170(h)3 of the Internal Revenue Code (26 U.S.C.A. & 170(h)3). “Contiguous acreage” is defined as all portions of one operational unit as described in the deed, or deeds, whether or not described as multiple tax parcels, tracts, purports or other property identifiers. It includes supportive lands such as unpaved field access roads, drainage areas, border strips, hedgerows, submerged lands, Marshes, ponds and streams.
  
- (3) Farms producing **crops unique to the area for commercial purposes** will be considered by the county board on a case-by-case basis for easement purchase. Crops that **may** qualify include the following:
  1. Grapes – commercial agriculture enterprise for table, juice or wine grapes
  2. Tobacco
  3. Speltz – a small grain grown as an alternative to federally regulated feed grains.
  4. Orchard Crops – commercial agricultural enterprise.

5. Mushrooms - commercial agricultural enterprise.
6. Tomatoes – commercially grown for fresh marketing or processing.
7. Cantaloupes – commercially grown for fresh market.
8. Snap beans – commercially grown for processing.
9. Pumpkins – commercially grown for fresh market.
10. Strawberries - commercially grown for fresh marketing or processing.
11. Potatoes - commercially grown for fresh marketing or processing.
12. Sweet corn - commercially grown for fresh marketing or processing.
13. Christmas trees – grown as a rotation crop with a management plan for cultivation, harvesting and replacement of Christmas trees.
14. Floriculture – grown as a commercial agricultural enterprise.
15. Maple syrup – commercial agricultural enterprise.
16. Sod, nursery stock, ornamental trees and shrubs – grown for commercial agricultural enterprise with the Deed of Easement restriction that removal of excess soil is **prohibited**.
17. Crown vetch – plugs or seed grown as a commercial agricultural enterprise.

(4) Contain at least 50% (percent) of soils which are available for agricultural production and are of capability classes I through IV, as defined by the soil surveys published by the United States Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service (USDA-NRCS).

- (5) Contain the greater of 50 %(percent) or 10 acres of harvested cropland, pasture or grazing lands, a portion of which may be used for Commercial Equine Purposes.
  
- (6) Comply with the amendments (Act 12 of 2001) to the Agricultural Area Security Law (Act 43) which prescribes the process for purchasing Agricultural Conservation Easements from landowners whose parcel boundaries cross local government and county lines.

