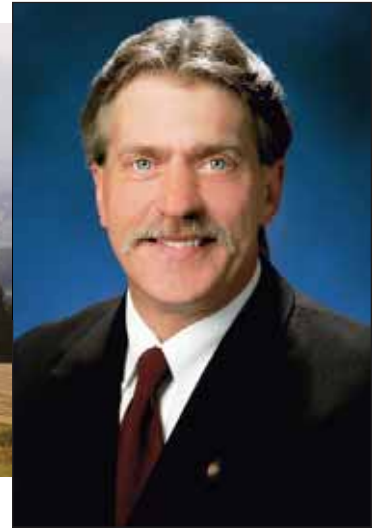




Resource Enhancement & Protection Program

FROM STATE SENATOR MIKE WAUGH



Dear Friend:

Pennsylvania is a national leader in supporting our agriculture community, and the General Assembly recently took another important step to keep agriculture our state's number one industry. I introduced the bill to establish a new law to create a first-of-its-kind program to help our farmers operate more efficiently and effectively while meeting environmental standards.

The Resource Enhancement and Protection (REAP) program is an innovative program that will allow local farmers to improve operations and ensure a cleaner environment. This mailer will give you more information about how the REAP program can help our farming operations in York County. The State Conservation Commission will begin accepting applications on January 2, 2008, so I would urge you to learn more about the program as soon as possible. Please feel free to contact me with any questions or for more information on REAP.

Mike Waugh



What Is REAP?

The Resource Enhancement and Protection (REAP) program provides tax credits of up to \$150,000 to help farmers meet state and federal environmental regulations. These tax credits will cover between 25 and 75 percent of the total project cost for planning and implementation of improvements such as barnyard and livestock area renovations, nutrient management plans, stream bank fencing and other cost-effective conservation projects.

To be eligible for REAP, agricultural operations must have a current conservation plan and an agricultural erosion and sediment control plan. Operations with an animal concentration area must have implemented best management practices to abate storm water runoff of sediment, nutrients and pollutants. Operations with uncompleted best management practices must include the remaining plans in their application.

Credits can be carried over for a maximum of 15 years and will cover between 25 and 75 percent of the project cost. They are also transferable, meaning that a business or individual can sponsor a project and receive a tax credit, reducing the up-front costs for farmers and providing more opportunities for improvements.

Up to \$10 million in tax credits is available this year, with a lifetime limit of \$150,000 per farming operation.



**For more information on REAP,
please go to the following website:
www.agriculture.state.pa.us/REAP**



Applications Accepted January 2, 2008

Applications will be reviewed on a first-come, first served basis, so it is important for farmers to apply as early as possible. Applications are available now for downloading and printing on the Department of Agriculture's website at www.agriculture.state.pa.us. Only original signatures will be accepted, so no electronic applications will be accepted.

The State Conservation Commission will begin accepting applications on January 2 at 8 a.m. No hand-delivered applications will be accepted before January 2, and no mailed applications postmarked earlier than Dec. 26 will be accepted. Applications that are postmarked December 26 or later will be accepted, but they will be logged into the system on January 2 so no application will have a time advantage over another.

If you have any questions about applying for REAP, please contact the State Conservation Commission at (717) 787-8821.



Senator Mike Waugh

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