



EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT  
DOVER

EXECUTIVE ORDER  
NUMBER ONE HUNDRED AND ONE

TO: HEADS OF ALL STATE DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES  
RE: STATE AGRICULTURAL LANDS PRESERVATION POLICY

WHEREAS, the State's farmlands are dwindling at an alarming rate, having decreased by approximately 200,000 acres in the past twenty-five years; and

WHEREAS, the continued loss of farmland, in Delaware and elsewhere, threatens our national economic and social interests; and

WHEREAS, the Governor's Advisory Committee on Farmland Preservation, established by Executive Order Number Eighty-four, has completed its work and recommended a course of action, portions of which can be implemented immediately.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, PIERRE S. du PONT, IV, by the authority vested in me as Governor of the State of Delaware, do hereby declare and order as follows:

1. Policy

To the extent permissible under law, the following shall be State policy:

- a. IT SHALL BE STATE POLICY THAT (A) AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITIES HAVE A PRIMARY RELATIONSHIP TO THE MAINTENANCE OF THE QUALITY OF LIFE AND MAINTAINING A DESIRABLE STANDARD OF LIVING IN DELAWARE; (B) FARMING IS THE HIGHEST PRIORITY USE OF THOSE AREAS BEST SUITED FOR AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION; (C) PUBLIC ACTIONS WHICH ADVERSELY IMPACT AGRICULTURE SHOULD BE AVOIDED WITHOUT AN AMPLE FINDING OF PUBLIC NEED; AND (D) PRESERVATION OF THE STATE'S FARMLANDS AND WOODLANDS IS CLEARLY IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST;
- b. IT SHALL BE STATE POLICY TO CONSERVE, PROTECT AND ENHANCE THE STATE'S AGRICULTURAL ECONOMIC BASE FOR PRODUCTION OF FOOD, FIBER, AND FUEL, AND TO PRESERVE THESE RESOURCES FOR THEIR NATURAL AND ECOLOGICAL VALUES FOR OPEN SPACES, RECREATIONAL USES, WILDLIFE HABITATS, AND AESTHETIC PURPOSES; and
- c. IT SHALL BE STATE POLICY TO ENCOURAGE THE IMPROVEMENT OF AGRICULTURAL OPERATIONS IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN AGRICULTURE AS A VIABLE INDUSTRY AND AN IMPORTANT CONTRIBUTOR TO DELAWARE'S ECONOMY.

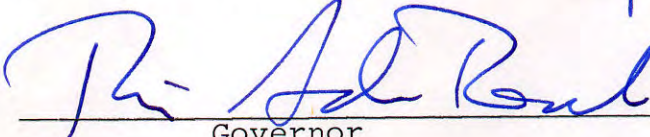
- d. IT SHALL BE STATE POLICY THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND THE OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT, BUDGET AND PLANNING (OMBP), OR ITS SUCCESSOR, SHALL WORK COOPERATIVELY TO FURTHER THE POLICIES DESCRIBED ABOVE.

2. State Agency Responsibility to Carry out Policy

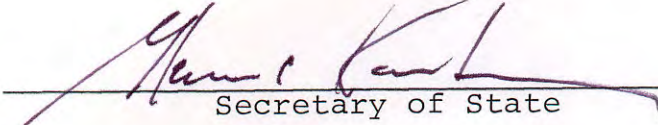
State agencies are hereby charged with the following duties and responsibilities:

- a. OMBP shall identify and map those farmlands which, because of their soil type, current or potential productivity, ownership, or location are of concern to preservation and shall routinely collect, analyze and report on the extent, location, and causes of farmland loss.
- b. The Department of Agriculture and OMBP shall cooperatively review the data collected by OMBP and recommend techniques to maintain agriculture as an important and viable economic activity in Delaware. The Department of Agriculture and OMBP shall assist other public agencies in the development of facility plans and programs in order to minimize adverse impacts on agriculture in accordance with the above established state policies;
- c. All other State departments and agencies shall, to the maximum extent permissible under State law, cooperate with the Department of Agriculture and OMBP in carrying out the above established State policies on the maintenance and preservation of agricultural activities; and
- d. The Department of Agriculture and OMBP shall encourage the active participation of agricultural and other interests, county and local governments, and the general public in activities which will be supportive of these State policies.

APPROVED this <sup>4<sup>th</sup></sup> day of April, 1981.

  
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Governor

ATTEST:

  
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Secretary of State

