



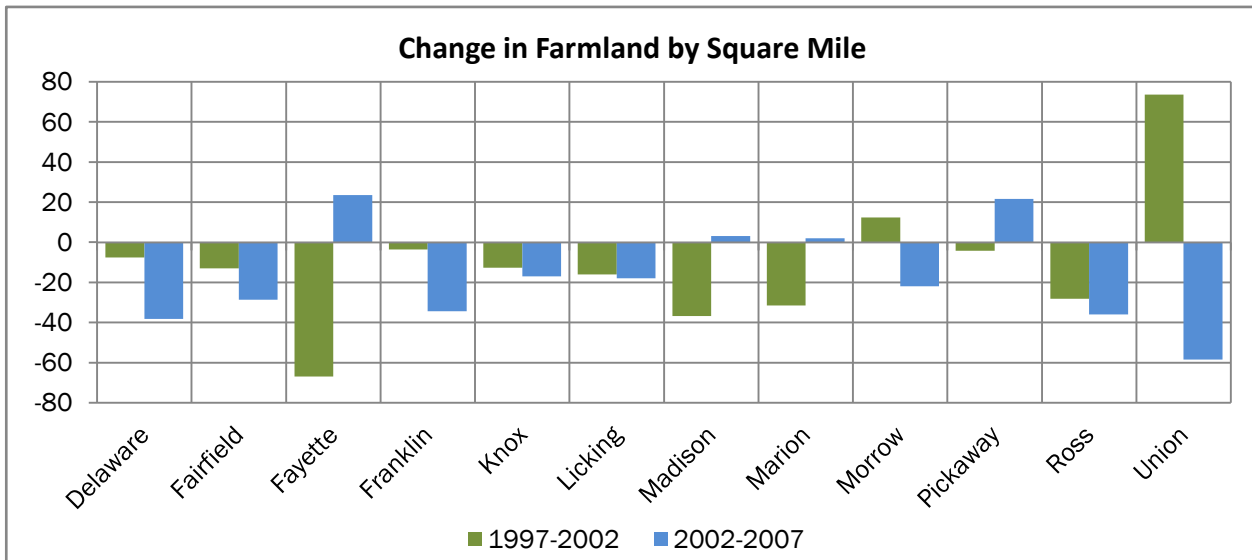
Agriculture is a highly important component of the economy in central Ohio. The region's land area was 62% farmland in 2007 compared to 67% in 2002. According to the US Census of Agriculture, the region lost 202 square miles of farmland between 2002 and 2007. Conservation efforts in some counties, such as Madison, have reversed their local trend.

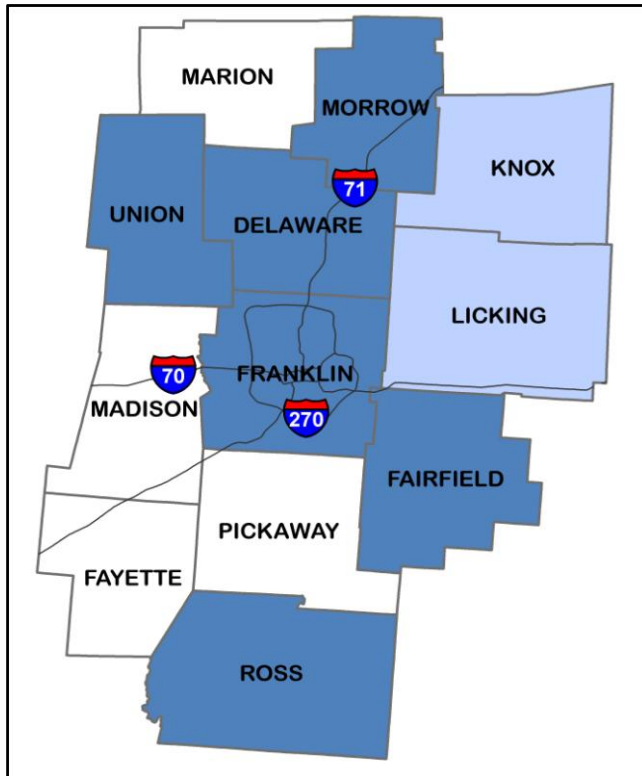
Since 2003, 3,206 acres of farmland in central Ohio have been preserved through the Clean Ohio Agricultural Easement Purchase Program (AEPP), a program developed by the Ohio Department of Agriculture's Office of Farmland Preservation. The AEPP preserves farmland from development by legally committing the land to agricultural use in perpetuity.

	Total Land Area (sq. miles)	Total Square Miles of Farmland			Change in Farmland (sq. miles)		Farmland: % of Total Land Area, 2007
		1997	2002	2007	1997-2002	2002-2007	
Delaware	443	262	254	216	-8	-38	49%
Fairfield	506	319	306	278	-13	-29	55%
Fayette	407	384	318	341	-67	23	84%
Franklin	540	131	127	93	-4	-34	17%
Knox	527	339	327	310	-13	-17	59%
Licking	687	387	371	353	-16	-18	51%
Madison	465	421	384	387	-37	3	83%
Marion	404	353	321	323	-32	2	80%
Morrow	406	267	280	258	12	-22	64%
Pickaway	502	434	430	451	-4	22	90%
Ross	689	414	385	349	-28	-36	51%
Union	437	326	400	342	74	-58	78%
Region	6,011	4,038	3,903	3,701	-135	-202	62%
State Total	40,953	23,028	22,787	21,807	-242	-979	53%

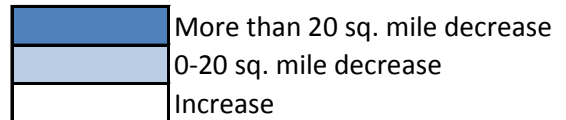
Source: USDA Agricultural Census

<http://www.agcensus.usda.gov/Publications/2007/index.asp>





Change in Farmland, 2002-2007



	Acres of Farmland Preserved in AEPP Easements						Total
	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	
Fairfield	4,061	3,049	1,839	81	52	0	9,081
Knox	3,349	2,004	2,175	300	204	156	8,189
Madison	2,964	2,797	1,840	368	0	0	7,969
Marion	0	276	0	0	0	180	455
Morrow	0	0	0	0	0	87	87
Pickaway	571	0	300	0	0	0	871
Ross	380	0	360	0	0	0	740
Union	103	103	450	0	0	0	656
Total	11,428	8,228	6,964	749	257	423	28,048

Source: Ohio Department of Agriculture Farmland Preservation Office

<http://www.agri.ohio.gov/divs/FarmLand/FarmLand.aspx>

