

# *Why protect Hamilton County's agriculture?*



**A**griculture in Hamilton County is an industry of great value, a vital economic engine for our local economy. By sustaining agricultural uses, we also protect Hamilton County's irreplaceable land heritage, and safeguard life-sustaining natural resources.

In 2004, more than one-tenth of the county's natural landscape—almost 35,000 acres—is in active agricultural use for crops and livestock, nurseries, greenhouses, forestry and timber.

## **Benefits of Agriculture**

— Farming is a way of life. Its future is important to all who value the many benefits agriculture brings to Hamilton County, including having access to locally-grown foods.

— Agriculture in Hamilton County contributes \$8.6 billion annually in output and employs over 89,000 people.<sup>1</sup>

— Hamilton County's "Green Industry" (which includes nursery & horticultural services & products) is the 3rd largest in production agriculture out of 88 Ohio counties.

— Land in agriculture is a source of tax revenue that demands few public services. In fact, agricultural uses pay more in local tax revenues than it costs local governments to provide services to these properties.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Sources: Ohio Farm Bureau Federation, Dr. Tom Sporleder, OSU, AEDE  
Ohio Dept. of Agriculture 2002 ODA/OAS Annual Report

<sup>2</sup> Source: 1993 Cost Of Community Services studies by American Farmland  
Trust and Lake County, Ohio Soil & Water Conservation District

**THE LAND CONSERVANCY  
OF HAMILTON COUNTY, OHIO**

[www.LandConservancyHC.org](http://www.LandConservancyHC.org)