



KATHLEEN  
**McGUINNESS**  
DELAWARE  
STATE AUDITOR

*Delaware Agricultural Lands  
Preservation Foundation  
Financial Statement Audit  
Fiscal Years 2020 and 2021*

---

**What Was Performed?** A financial statement audit of the Delaware Agriculture Lands Preservation Foundation for the fiscal years ended June 30, 2020 and 2021.

---

**Why This Report?** This financial statement audit was performed in accordance with 29 *Del. C.* § 2906 and 3 *Del. C.* §§ 904(a)(8) and 904(a)(9).

The Department of Agriculture manages Delaware's Agricultural Lands (Aglands) Preservation Program. This program, established in 1991, allows landowners to voluntarily preserve their farms through a two-phase process. There are 490,000 acres of farms, which comprise 39% of the land area in Delaware.

Delaware's farmland preservation program has two major components: Agricultural Preservation Districts and Agricultural Conservation Easements.

Preservation Districts are voluntary agreements where landowners agree to continue to only use their land only for agriculture for at least 10 years. Agricultural easements are purchases of development rights by the foundation, placing a permanent agricultural conservation easement on the property. Landowners must enroll their farm into a Preservation District before they can sell an easement.

In FY21, the Aglands program received \$5 million from the state Bond Bill and \$48,621 from the state's operating budget.

**What Was Found?** It is my pleasure to report this audit contained an unmodified opinion.<sup>1</sup>

The audited financial statements of Delaware Agricultural Lands Preservation Foundation for Fiscal Year 2021 can be found on our website: [click here](#).

Please do not reply to this email. For any questions regarding the attached report, please contact State Auditor Kathleen McGuinness at [Kathleen.Mcguinness@delaware.gov](mailto:Kathleen.Mcguinness@delaware.gov).

---

---

<sup>1</sup> An unmodified opinion is sometimes referred to as a "clean" opinion. It is one in which the auditor expresses an opinion that the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, an entity's financial position, results of operations and cash flows in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles.