

The Cost of  
Community Services  
**Clark County, Ohio**

Commissioned by  
Tecumseh Land Trust

October 2003



*American Farmland Trust*

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*American Farmland Trust* (AFT) is a private, nonprofit conservation organization founded in 1980 to protect our nation's strategic agricultural resources. AFT works to stop the loss of productive farmland and to promote farming practices that lead to a healthy environment. AFT provides a variety of services to landowners, land trusts, public officials, planners, agricultural agencies and others. Services include Cost of Community Services studies, workshops on farmland protection and estate planning, farmland protection program development and agricultural economic analysis.

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## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

At the request of Tecumseh Land Trust, American Farmland Trust completed a Cost of Community Services (COCS) study to develop a current understanding of the net fiscal impact of existing land uses in Clark County, Ohio. The study analyzes revenues and expenditures on a land use basis for fiscal year 2001. It examines revenues by land use and the financial demands of public services (e.g., public safety, government administration, schools, courts, etc.) and shows the cost of providing these services to residential, commercial, and farmland properties. The study focused on the county budget and school districts because they represent revenues and expenditures for the majority of the government services provided to residents living in Clark County.

### **The COCS study found that in Clark County:**

- 83 percent of revenue in fiscal year 2001 was generated by residential land uses, 15 percent was generated by commercial land uses, and 2 percent by farmland;
- 94 percent of county expenditures went to provide services for residential land use compared with 6 percent for commercial/ industrial uses and less than one percent for farmland.

In other words, for each \$1 of revenue received from residential properties in Clark County in fiscal year 2001, \$1.11 was spent providing services to those lands. For each \$1 from commercial and industrial land uses, 38 cents was spent providing services, and for each \$1 received from farmland, 30 cents was spent providing services.

Residential land uses created a deficit of \$19,738,166 that was offset by the other two land use categories: \$19,342,580 from commercial and the balance from a \$3,552,423 surplus paid by farmland. The Clark County COCS findings demonstrate that a balance of land uses is necessary to ensure fiscal stability. While residential development contributes the largest amount of revenue, its net fiscal impact is negative because the total expenditures

for that land use exceed the revenues. Commercial development's net revenues offset the majority of the shortfall while farmland's net revenues contribute the balance.

**Study Findings**

<b>Combined County &amp; School Services</b>	<b>FY 2001 Actual</b>	<b>Residential</b>	<b>Commercial/Industrial</b>	<b>Farmland</b>
a) Total Revenues	\$ 209,915,289	\$ 173,680,601	\$ 31,169,891	\$ 5,064,796
b) Total Expenditures	\$ 206,758,452	\$ 193,418,767	\$ 11,827,312	\$ 1,512,373
Net contribution (a-b)	\$ 3,156,837	(\$ 19,738,166)	\$ 19,342,580	\$ 3,552,423
Land use ratio*		\$1: \$1.11	\$1: \$ 0.38	\$1: \$ 0.30

\*Cost for each \$1 of revenue generated

## **INTRODUCTION**

In communities that rely heavily on property taxes to generate revenues, COCS studies are fairly straightforward. Revenues and expenditures from a recent fiscal period are distributed according to land use, and results are compared to provide a ratio that shows how much a community spent on public services for every \$1 raised from a specific land use. COCS studies are based on real time and real dollars.

COCS researchers rely on public financial data, departmental records and budgets, assessor's data and interviews with budget managers and financial officers to allocate revenues and figure out how public services were delivered in a specific year. In effect, the exercise is like balancing a checkbook of community land uses.

The purpose of these studies is to provide insight into the contribution agriculture makes to the local economy, tax base and quality of life, and to provide some context for decisions about how to encourage the retention of agricultural lands and stimulate investment in the industry.

### **Clark County**

Clark County is located in the southwestern corner of Ohio and encompasses 400 square miles, or 256,000 acres. The county population was 144,742 in 2000, a decrease of 1.9 percent from the 1990 census. The number of households increased 2.6 percent between 1990 and 2000.<sup>1</sup> According to records from the county auditor, the assessed value of taxable properties in the county was \$1,906,114,000 in 2001, with another \$217 million of exempt properties.

The 1997 Census of Agriculture reported 671 farms in Clark County operating on 172,026 acres of farmland. Small farms (with annual sales of less than \$100,000) constitute 80 percent of all farms in the county. The market value of agricultural products sold in 1997 was \$73,418,000. In 2001 crop cash receipts totaled \$58,743,000, while livestock

cash receipts totaled \$7,258,000. Corn and hogs generated the largest crop and livestock cash receipts in 2001.<sup>2</sup>

### **Cost of Community Service Studies**

A COCS study is a case study analysis of the net fiscal impacts of existing land uses on county budgets. It provides a snapshot in time of costs versus revenues based on current land use. Unlike traditional fiscal impact analysis, COCS studies are descriptive—not predictive—and are based on real budgets for a specific community. These analyses show what services private residents receive in return for the taxes they pay to their local and county government and how these costs and revenues relate to land use.

The process of conducting a COCS study is relatively straightforward and easy to understand. Local budgetary information is allocated to major land use categories. The studies rely on budget and financial records and in-depth interviews with local government officials and budget managers to understand how revenues were generated and how appropriations were spent during a recent year. The goal of this COCS study is not to prescribe a course of action but to provide reliable financial data to help Clark County officials make informed planning decisions and to evaluate strategies to maintain a balance in the distribution of land uses in the future.

AFT developed this low-cost fiscal study to contribute local knowledge to decisions about land use. It is hoped that by using a community's own statistics and financial, land use and economic data, these tools will move public dialogue from speculation to projection—from emotion to analysis. The results of this COCS study show the average fiscal impacts of current land uses in Clark County.

AFT developed the COCS approach to investigate three common claims often heard at community meetings:

1. Open lands—including working agricultural and forest lands—are an interim land use that should be developed to their “highest and best use”;

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<sup>1</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, 1990, 2000.

2. Agricultural land gets an “unfair” tax break when it is assessed at its actual use value for agriculture instead of at its potential use value for development;
3. Residential development will lower property taxes by increasing the tax base.

While it is true that an acre of land with a new house generates more total revenue than an acre of farmland, this tells us little about a community’s fiscal stability. In areas where farming and forestry are major industries, it is especially important to consider the real property tax contribution of privately owned natural resource lands. Farm, forests and open lands generate less revenue than residential, commercial or industrial properties, but they require little public expenditure due to the modest demand for infrastructure and public services. COCS studies determine the *net* fiscal impact of land uses in the present by comparing total revenues to total expenditures to ascertain the overall contribution of different land uses.

There are three basic steps in the process of conducting a Cost of Community Services study:

1. Collect data: Obtain relevant reports and other financial records, interview officials, boards and departments.
2. Allocate revenues and expenditures by land use.
3. Analyze data and calculate ratios.

The following section explains how these steps were followed in Clark County.

### **COCS METHOD IN CLARK COUNTY**

Before the study began, researchers contacted public officials to set up interviews, to understand local issues related to budgets and to define land use categories for the study. After a review of the county property tax classification system three land use categories were defined for this study:

- ***Residential Development*** – property used for dwellings, *including farmhouses*, mobile homes and rental units.

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<sup>2</sup> Ohio State University Extension, 2001.



- ***Commercial and Industrial Development*** – property actively used for business purposes other than agricultural or forestry, including retail and wholesale production and utilities and vacant parcels classified as commercial or industrial.
- ***Farmland*** – all agricultural parcels, including those qualifying for agricultural exemptions.

### **Collected Data and Interviews**

Appointments were scheduled with county officials. The purpose of these interviews was to obtain relevant information and to collect necessary documents. The Clark County Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) for the year ended December 31, 2001 was used as a basis for all county financial information. The CAFR was reviewed to gain an understanding of the nature of services provided by county departments. Other important documents and sources of information used for this study include:

- Local School Districts: Combined Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balances.
- Ohio Department of Public Safety, Tax Distribution Section, Motor Vehicle Revenue
- Waste Management District Annual Report, 2001
- [www.sconet.state.oh.us/publications](http://www.sconet.state.oh.us/publications)

### **Allocate revenues and expenditures by land use**

Interviews were conducted to allocate all fiscal year 2001 revenues and expenditures into the three land use categories. In the interviews, officials were asked to provide records showing how revenue was generated by land use and what land use was served by an expenditure: residential, commercial/industrial, or farmland. The next step involved allocating revenues and expenditures to the land use categories based on the information gathered from reports and interviews.

### **Revenues**

Revenues for county government come from many sources including: property and sales taxes; intergovernmental revenue (federal, state, and local); charges for services; licenses and permits; and fees, fines and forfeitures. Each line of revenue in the CAFR was categorized according to the land use source for that particular item. Taxes for trailer parks were allocated to residential. Permissive sales taxes revenue of almost \$12 million was allocated to commercial land use.

Intergovernmental revenue, including grants from the state and federal government, was classified according to the type of program that received the income, under the assumption that the revenue is provided to pay for a specific service. For example, a state payment for the public defender (indigent legal defense) and the state reimbursement for homestead taxes were allocated to the residential category. State income tax from sales franchises were allocated to commercial. Licenses and permit fees were allocated similarly. Money from vending and cigarette licenses was attributed to commercial land use.

The breakdown of property tax revenues into land use classes was available from the county auditor. The property categories used by the county were grouped into the three land use categories used for this study: residential, commercial and industrial, and farmland. Agricultural land in Clark County within the farmland and open space category is land that falls under the Current Agricultural Use Value program and therefore is assessed at the value of its current use, rather than at the value of its potential use for development.

Taxes from farmhouses were included in the residential category to correspond with services demanded by homeowners separate from the agricultural business. The following table shows how land is classified for assessment purposes in Clark County and how the assessed value is allocated by the land use categories of this study.

**Table 1. Assessed Values and Land Use Categories**

Clark County Property Assessment		COCS Study Adjustments		
Ohio Land Use Code & Description	Assessed Value	Residential	Commercial/ Industrial	Farmland
100-119 Agricultural	\$ 165,567,840	\$47,087,494		\$118,480,346
300-399 Industrial	\$ 77,140,040		\$ 77,140,040	
400-499 Commercial	\$270,455,630		\$270,455,630	
500-599 Residential	\$1,376,901,330	\$1,376,901,330		
700 Special Tax Abatements	\$ 11,756,160		\$ 11,756,160	
800 Public Utility	\$ 4,293,000		\$ 4,293,000	
<b>Total Assessed Value*</b>	<b>\$1,906,114,000</b>	<b>\$ 1,423,988,824</b>	<b>\$363,644,830</b>	<b>\$118,480,346</b>
<b>Land Use Percentage of Total Assessed Value</b>		<b>.7471</b>	<b>.1907</b>	<b>.0622</b>

\* Taxable Properties Only – does not include exempt properties such as government land or churches.

### Expenditures

County officials and department heads were interviewed to determine how county expenditures should be allocated to the three land use categories. Department heads gave an overview of their services and identified any relevant reports (dispatch records, permit summaries, organizational charts) and other secondary sources of information. In the interviews, officials were asked which land use benefited from each expense: residential, commercial/industrial or agricultural land.

Expenditures in the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report are divided into a general fund and special funds. Categories under both funds include the legislative and executive, judicial, public safety, public works, health, human services, and conservation and recreation. The Sheriff's Department (public safety) expenditures were allocated according to a sample of the calls made. Judicial expenses were allocated according to a review of case file statistics. Several service expenditures were clearly residential such as health and human services. County economic development expenditures were allocated to commercial/industrial land (**needs an explanation**).

### **Use of "Fallback" Percentages**

Even after extensive record searches, in a few cases, it is not possible to attribute some line items to specific land use categories. For example, administrative salaries and public buildings serve the entire county in a general capacity. In this situation, a fallback breakdown was applied. It was calculated based on the percentage of **taxes contributed from real and personal property** for fiscal year 2001 taxes (see Table 1). The land use distribution of these revenues resulted in the following:

- 74 percent were from residential development,
- 19 percent from commercial and industrial development, and
- 6 percent from agricultural land.

These fallback percentages were used for both revenues and expenditures, but only in cases where line items lacked a clear relationship to land use. Approximately 3 percent of total revenues were allocated using the fallback number for such items as the treasurer's investment fees, money made from the auctioning of county items, and unclaimed money. Expenditures allocated using the fallback number amounted to about 4 percent of total expenditures and were primarily for legislative and executive functions serving the entire county including the work of commissioners, auditor, data processing and the treasurer.

### **Analyze data and calculate ratios**

Once the necessary data was collected and interviews completed, the information was entered into a spreadsheet. The dollar amount for each line item of the budget was allocated among the three land use categories according to the associated percentage

breakdown. The percentages were entered for each line item, and total revenues and total expenditures were summed for each of the three land use categories. By comparing total revenues to total expenditures in each category, the total net surplus or deficit was calculated.

County and school budget allocations are included in this report as Appendix A. School budget revenues and expenditures by district are shown in Appendix B. This information is also presented as ratios to show the actual expenditure for every dollar raised (See Table 2 on page 14). The findings were checked for accuracy. Finally, draft findings were sent to the study sponsors for their review and comments. These comments were discussed with the sponsors and incorporated into the final report.

## **FINDINGS**

In fiscal year 2001, Clark County residential land use generated \$173,680,601 in revenues to cover residential land use expenditures of \$193,418,767. Comparing revenues to expenditures shows that residential land use had a deficit of \$19,738,166, which was covered by a surplus of \$3,552,423 from agricultural revenues and \$19,342,580 from commercial/industrial development.

Findings for Clark County are presented in the table below. The first two rows of the table show the total dollar amounts allocated to each land use for revenues and expenditures. The third row shows the net dollar impact on the budget for each land use. This was determined by comparing the revenues generated with the expenditures provided. The next row of the table presents this same information in ratio form. This is a clear way to see how much each land use costs for each dollar of revenue that it generates for county services.

The final land use ratios show the costs required per \$1 of revenue generated in fiscal year 2001. For each \$1 of revenue received from residential properties in Clark County in fiscal year 2001, the county spent \$1.11 providing services to those lands. For each \$1 from

commercial and industrial land uses, 38 cents was spent providing services to those lands and for each \$1 received from agricultural land uses, 30 cents was spent providing services.

**Table 2. Study Findings**

Combined County & School Services	FY 2001 Actual	Residential	Commercial/Industrial	Farmland
a) Total Revenues	\$ 209,915,289	\$ 173,680,601	\$ 31,169,891	\$ 5,064,796
b) Total Expenditures	\$ 206,758,452	\$ 193,418,767	\$ 11,827,312	\$ 1,512,373
Net contribution (a-b)	\$ 3,156,837	(\$ 19,738,166)	\$ 19,342,580	\$ 3,552,423
Land use ratio*		\$ 1: \$1.11	\$1: 0.38	\$ 1: 0.30
Percent of Revenue by Land Use		82.74%	14.85%	2.41%
Percent of Expenditure by Land Use		93.55%	5.72%	0.73%

\* Cost for each \$1 of revenue generated

## DISCUSSION

COCS studies provide a baseline of information to help local officials and citizens make informed land use decisions. They offer the benefit of hindsight to see the effect of development patterns to date. They also demonstrate the fiscal importance of privately owned land in agricultural uses.

The purpose of a COCS study is to determine the net fiscal contribution of working and open lands so these lands may be duly considered in the planning process, not to recommend one type of land use over another. Because the studies are descriptive, they should not be used to predict the impact of a single development or to project future costs of services created by new development. COCS studies are not designed to judge the value of one land use over another or to compare one type of new development to another.

The results of this study provide reliable financial information that demonstrates the importance of agricultural lands to the fiscal stability of Clark County. It suggests that

development of strategies to retain this land base for future agriculture would be a good long-term investment and that:

- Taxes and other revenues from residential development do not cover all the public services residents receive from the county. A balance of land uses, including agricultural and open lands, is needed to provide adequate revenue to pay for these services. As more residential development occurs, an imbalance may grow creating the need for tax increases.
- Agricultural and open lands pay more in local tax revenues than these working lands receive in services. Differential property tax programs are justified as a way to provide an incentive to keep land open and in active agricultural use. Even with a reduced assessed value, agricultural properties contribute a surplus of revenue to pay for public services for residents of Clark County.

The findings of this study show the fiscal benefits that result from open and agricultural lands and factual information to help residents understand the delicate fiscal balance between the costs of public services and the revenues generated for them.

This information should be useful for county leaders and residents when faced with land use decisions now and in the future. In addition to helping maintain fiscal balance, agricultural and open lands help sustain Clark County's economy and rural character, and help shape the overall quality of life in the region.

**APPENDICES**

**A. County and School Budget Allocation**

**B. School Budget Allocation**



# APPENDIX A: CLARK COUNTY BUDGET ALLOCATION

REVENUES - FY 2001	Actual	Residential	Commercial/ Industrial	Farm/land
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Check

## General Fund

### Taxes

Real Estate	\$ 2,502,324	\$ 1,869,236	\$ 477,443	\$ 155,645	\$ 2,502,324
Personal Property	\$ 458,446	\$ -	\$ 458,446	\$ -	\$ 458,446
Trailer Park	\$ 15,075	\$ 15,075	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 15,075
Permissive Sales Tax	\$ 11,911,495	\$ -	\$ 11,911,495	\$ -	\$ 11,911,495
<b>Total Taxes</b>	<b>\$ 14,887,341</b>	<b>\$ 1,884,311</b>	<b>\$ 12,847,385</b>	<b>\$ 155,645</b>	<b>\$ 14,887,341</b>

## Intergovernmental

Reimbursement - Title IV-D	\$ 810,485	\$ 810,485	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 810,485
Reimbursement - Mun. Ct. Main	\$ 179,353	\$ 114,427	\$ 63,114	\$ 1,811	\$ 179,353
Reimbursement - Other	\$ 9,336	\$ 6,974	\$ 1,781	\$ 581	\$ 9,336
Reimb. - Industrial Construction	\$ 97,186	\$ -	\$ 97,186	\$ -	\$ 97,186
DEF/INDG (State) Prisoners	\$ 580,513	\$ 580,513	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 580,513
Public Defender (state)	\$ 73,776	\$ 73,776	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 73,776
Auditor	\$ 281,630	\$ 281,630	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 281,630
Auditor	\$ 16,282	\$ 12,162	\$ 3,107	\$ 1,013	\$ 16,282
State Income Tax, Sales, Franchise	\$ 5,221	\$ -	\$ 5,221	\$ -	\$ 5,221
State Income Tax	\$ 2,471,700	\$ 1,846,360	\$ 471,600	\$ 153,740	\$ 2,471,700
State Reimbursement for Homestead	\$ 554,940	\$ 554,940	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 554,940
Pros. Attorney - Inv. Income	\$ 337,577	\$ 252,170	\$ 64,410	\$ 20,997	\$ 337,577
Probate	\$ 678	\$ 615	\$ 48	\$ 16	\$ 678
OYC DET (state) youth commission	\$ 6,043	\$ 6,043	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 6,043
JC Lunch PG - juvenile court	\$ 3,566	\$ 3,566	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,566
Emergency Management	\$ 47,048	\$ 35,145	\$ 8,977	\$ 2,926	\$ 47,048
Sheriff	\$ 519,008	\$ 420,345	\$ 84,806	\$ 13,858	\$ 519,008
ULS	\$ 21,231	\$ 15,860	\$ 4,051	\$ 1,321	\$ 21,231
<b>Total Intergovernmental</b>	<b>\$ 6,015,574</b>	<b>\$ 5,015,011</b>	<b>\$ 804,301</b>	<b>\$ 196,262</b>	<b>\$ 6,015,574</b>

## Charges for Services

Vending Machine	\$ 76,440	\$ -	\$ 76,440	\$ -	\$ 76,440
BD PRSRNS (CITY)/(FED)	\$ 162,965	\$ 162,965	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 162,965
Building Department	\$ 501,595	\$ 260,937	\$ 240,658	\$ -	\$ 501,595
Convy Fee - Real Estate	\$ 450,135	\$ 339,954	\$ 85,886	\$ 27,998	\$ 450,135

Tax settlements - transfer	\$ 436,038	\$ 325,720	\$ 83,196	\$ 27,122	\$ 436,038
Auditor - Sales/Copy	\$ 13,725	\$ 10,252	\$ 2,619	\$ 854	\$ 13,725
CHGS - Data Proc.	\$ 5,391	\$ 4,027	\$ 1,029	\$ 335	\$ 5,391
Dept. Fees - Treasurer	\$ 430,745	\$ 321,766	\$ 82,186	\$ 26,792	\$ 430,745
Dept. Fees - Sheriff	\$ 145,037	\$ 117,465	\$ 23,699	\$ 3,872	\$ 145,037
Dept. Fees - Probate	\$ 126,726	\$ 114,827	\$ 8,972	\$ 2,927	\$ 126,726
TUIT DET HOM - Schools	\$ 57,093	\$ 57,093	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 57,093
Fees- Det. Home (other co)	\$ 85,527	\$ 85,527	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 85,527
Dept. Fees - Clerk of Courts	\$ 248,248	\$ 183,058	\$ 61,814	\$ 3,376	\$ 248,248
Transcript Fees - Court Case	\$ 31,798	\$ 30,209	\$ 1,272	\$ 318	\$ 31,798
Board of Election	\$ 16,141	\$ 16,141	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 16,141
Dept. Fees - Recorder	\$ 822,226	\$ 614,203	\$ 156,881	\$ 51,142	\$ 822,226
Sheriff	\$ 517,474	\$ 413,979	\$ 103,495	\$ -	\$ 517,474
<b>Total Charges for Services</b>	<b>\$ 4,127,303</b>	<b>\$ 3,054,420</b>	<b>\$ 928,146</b>	<b>\$ 144,738</b>	<b>\$ 4,127,303</b>

**REVENUES - FY 2001**

Actual

Residential

Commercial/  
Industrial

Farmland

Check

<b>Licenses and Permits</b>					
Zoning Fees	\$ 13,186	\$ 9,850	\$ 2,516	\$ 820	\$ 13,186
Vending License	\$ 11,151	\$ -	\$ 11,151	\$ -	\$ 11,151
Cigarette License	\$ 1,790	\$ -	\$ 1,790	\$ -	\$ 1,790
Common Pleas Court	\$ 43,685	\$ 33,637	\$ 7,863	\$ 2,184	\$ 43,685
Domestic Relations	\$ 79,452	\$ 79,452	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 79,452
<b>Total Licenses and Permits</b>	<b>\$ 149,264</b>	<b>\$ 122,940</b>	<b>\$ 23,320</b>	<b>\$ 3,004</b>	<b>\$ 149,264</b>

<b>Fees, Fines, and Forfeitures</b>					
Common Pleas Court	\$ 133,440	\$ 102,749	\$ 24,019	\$ 6,672	\$ 133,440
Juvenile Court	\$ 155,171	\$ 155,171	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 155,171
Municipal Court	\$ 444,255	\$ 284,323	\$ 155,489	\$ 4,443	\$ 444,255
<b>Total Fees</b>	<b>\$ 732,865</b>	<b>\$ 542,243</b>	<b>\$ 179,508</b>	<b>\$ 11,115</b>	<b>\$ 732,865</b>

**Investment Income**

Treasurer	\$ 3,119,405	\$ 2,330,195	\$ 595,182	\$ 194,027	\$ 3,119,405
Probate	\$ 1,261	\$ 1,261	\$ 89	\$ 29	\$ 1,261

<b>Total Investment Income</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>3,120,666</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>2,331,338</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>595,272</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>194,056</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>3,120,666</b>
<b>Other Revenue</b>										
No Category	\$	16,378	\$	12,234	\$	3,125	\$	1,019	\$	16,378
Insurance Reimbursement	\$	2,282	\$	1,704	\$	435	\$	142	\$	2,282
County Buildings - Rental Income	\$	60,971	\$	45,545	\$	11,633	\$	3,792	\$	60,971
Industrial Develop. - City of Spring.	\$	300,000	\$	-	\$	300,000	\$	-	\$	300,000
Juvenile Court	\$	2,475	\$	2,475	\$	-	\$	-	\$	2,475
Sheriff	\$	17,568	\$	14,228	\$	2,871	\$	469	\$	17,568
Juvenile Court	\$	91,095	\$	91,095	\$	-	\$	-	\$	91,095
Cash Deposit	\$	104,968	\$	78,411	\$	20,028	\$	6,529	\$	104,968
Un Mon	\$	156,145	\$	116,640	\$	29,792	\$	9,712	\$	156,145
<b>Total Other Revenue</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>751,882</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>362,334</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>367,884</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>21,663</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>751,882</b>
<b>Total General Fund</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>29,784,895</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>13,312,596</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>15,745,816</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>726,483</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>29,784,895</b>

**REVENUES - FY 2001**

	Actual	Residential	Commercial/Industrial	Farmland
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**SPECIAL FUNDS**

Check

Taxes	Actual	Residential	Commercial/Industrial	Farmland	Check
Children's Home Levy	\$ 2,939,603	\$ 2,195,883	\$ 560,876	\$ 182,843	2,939,603
Mental Retardation/Developmental	\$ 8,482,603	\$ 6,336,504	\$ 1,618,481	\$ 527,618	8,482,603
DRETAC (Delinquent Taxes)	\$ 240,940	\$ 179,982	\$ 45,971	\$ 14,986	240,940
Senior Citizens Levy	\$ 1,049,191	\$ 783,746	\$ 200,186	\$ 65,260	1,049,191
<b>Total Taxes</b>	<b>\$ 12,712,337</b>	<b>\$ 9,496,116</b>	<b>\$ 2,425,514</b>	<b>\$ 790,707</b>	<b>12,712,337</b>

Intergovernmental	Actual	Residential	Commercial/Industrial	Farmland	Check
Human Services	\$ 18,307,522	\$ 18,307,522	\$ -	\$ -	18,307,522.00
Child Support Enforcement	\$ 3,458,685	\$ 3,458,685	\$ -	\$ -	3,458,685.00
Children's Home Levy	\$ 2,661,014	\$ 2,661,014	\$ -	\$ -	2,661,014.00
Comm. Development Block Grant	\$ 167,751	\$ 83,876	\$ 83,876	\$ -	167,751.00
Mediation Program	\$ 212,601	\$ 212,601	\$ -	\$ -	212,601.00
Recycle Ohio	\$ 116,239	\$ 116,239	\$ -	\$ -	116,239.00
Mental Retardation/Developmental	\$ 10,715,692	\$ 10,715,692	\$ -	\$ -	10,715,692.00
Motor Vehicle and Gas Tax	\$ 5,563,940	\$ 4,514,025	\$ 997,058	\$ 52,857	5,563,940.00
Emergency Planning	\$ 33,608	\$ 25,105	\$ 6,412	\$ 2,090	33,608.00
Felony Delinquent Care	\$ 987,097	\$ 987,097	\$ -	\$ -	987,097.00
LEAA project (Victim/Witness)	\$ 143,034	\$ 143,034	\$ -	\$ -	143,034.00
Victim Advocate Grant	\$ 108,997	\$ 108,997	\$ -	\$ -	108,997.00
Solid Waste Disposal	\$ 500	\$ 500	\$ -	\$ -	500.00
Senior Citizens	\$ 119,140	\$ 119,140	\$ -	\$ -	119,140.00
Local Law Enf. Block Grant	\$ 182,518	\$ 147,821	\$ 29,823	\$ 4,873	182,518.00
Family Preservation Team Grant	\$ 150,930	\$ 150,930	\$ -	\$ -	150,930.00
Title IV-E Contract	\$ 337,645	\$ 337,645	\$ -	\$ -	337,645.00
County Emergency Prep. Grant	\$ 6,696	\$ 5,002	\$ 1,278	\$ 416	6,696.00
Sheriff Asset Forfeiture	\$ 5,972	\$ 5,972	\$ -	\$ -	5,972.00
<b>Total Intergovernmental</b>	<b>\$ 43,279,581</b>	<b>\$ 42,100,896</b>	<b>\$ 1,118,447</b>	<b>\$ 60,238</b>	<b>43,279,581.00</b>

Charges for Services	Actual	Residential	Commercial/Industrial	Farmland	Check
Children's Home Levy	\$ 4,918,517	\$ 4,918,517	\$ -	\$ -	4,918,517.00
Mental Retardation/Developmental	\$ 1,426,521	\$ 1,426,521	\$ -	\$ -	1,426,521.00
Dog and Kennel	\$ 7,062	\$ 7,062	\$ -	\$ -	7,062.00
Real Estate Assessment	\$ 945,166	\$ 706,039	\$ 180,338	\$ 58,789	945,166.00
Motor Vehicle & Gas Tax	\$ 41,552	\$ 33,711	\$ 7,446	\$ 395	41,552.00

Appendix A - 4

LIS Mapping	\$	200,000	\$	149,400	\$	38,160	\$	12,440	200,000.00
Home Arrest Monitoring	\$	6,520	\$	6,520	\$	-	\$	-	6,520.00
Certificate of Title Administration	\$	545,068	\$	407,166	\$	103,999	\$	33,903	545,068.00
County Recorder's Special Equip.	\$	148,484	\$	110,918	\$	28,331	\$	9,236	148,484.00
Jail Commissary Trust	\$	15,562	\$	15,562	\$	-	\$	-	15,562.00
Indigent Guardianship	\$	27,672	\$	27,672	\$	-	\$	-	27,672.00
Conduct of Business	\$	946	\$	857	\$	66.98	\$	22	946.00
Solid Waste Disposal	\$	718,691	\$	179,673	\$	539,018	\$	-	718,691.00
Common Pleas Court	\$	12,955	\$	9,975	\$	2,332	\$	648	12,955.00
Jail Pay-for-Stay	\$	19,461	\$	19,461	\$	-	\$	-	19,461.00
<b>Total Charges for Services</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>9,034,177</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>8,019,054</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>899,691</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>115,433</b>	<b>9,034,177.00</b>
<b>Licenses and Permits</b>									
Dog and Kennel	\$	287,197	\$	287,197	\$	-	\$	-	287,197

**REVENUES - FY 2001**

	Actual	Residential	Commercial Industrial	Farmland	Check
<b>Fees, Fines, and Forfeitures</b>					
Child Support Enforcement	\$ 380,599	\$ 380,599	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 380,599
Mediation	\$ 42,202	\$ 42,202	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 42,202
Mandatory Fine	\$ 57,594	\$ 46,645	\$ 9,411	\$ 1,538	\$ 57,594
Dog and Kennel	\$ 23,097	\$ 23,097	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 23,097
Motor Vehicle & Gas Tax	\$ 89,940	\$ 72,968	\$ 16,117	\$ 854	\$ 89,940.00
Computer Maintenance	\$ 104,539	\$ 93,719	\$ 8,949	\$ 1,871	\$ 104,539
Legal Research (CPleas & Juv.)	\$ 13,421	\$ 13,421	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 13,421
Law Enforcement	\$ 5,026	\$ 4,071	\$ 821	\$ 134	\$ 5,026
Enforcement and Education	\$ 42,844	\$ 34,699	\$ 7,001	\$ 1,144	\$ 42,844
Indigent Drivers Alcohol	\$ 3,831	\$ 3,831	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,831
<b>Total Fees</b>	<b>\$ 763,093</b>	<b>\$ 715,253</b>	<b>\$ 42,299</b>	<b>\$ 5,542</b>	<b>\$ 763,093</b>

<b>Special Assessments</b>					
Ditch Maintenance	\$ 22,519	\$ 16,822	\$ 4,297	\$ 1,401	\$ 22,519

<b>Investment Income</b>					
Treasurer Prepayment Interest	\$ 17,191	\$ 12,842	\$ 3,280	\$ 1,069	\$ 17,191
Local Law Enforcement Block Grant	\$ 6,840	\$ 5,540	\$ 1,118	\$ 183	\$ 6,840
<b>Total Investment Income</b>	<b>\$ 24,031</b>	<b>\$ 18,381</b>	<b>\$ 4,398</b>	<b>\$ 1,252</b>	<b>\$ 24,031</b>

<b>Other Revenue</b>					
Human Services	\$ 665,875	\$ 665,875	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 665,875.00
Child Support Enforcement	\$ 112,308	\$ 112,308	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 112,308.00
Children's Home Levy	\$ 38,271	\$ 38,271	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 38,271.00
CDBG	\$ 13,370	\$ 1,337	\$ 12,033	\$ -	\$ 13,370.00
Recycle Ohio	\$ 70,246	\$ 51,982	\$ 14,752	\$ 3,512	\$ 70,246.00
Mental Retardation/Developmental	\$ 551,593	\$ 551,593	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 551,593.00
Drug Task Force	\$ 135	\$ 135	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 135.00
Dog and Kennel	\$ 917	\$ 917	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 917.00
Motor Vehicle & Gas Tax	\$ 164,253	\$ 133,258	\$ 29,434	\$ 1,560	\$ 164,253.00
LIS Mapping	\$ 300	\$ 224	\$ 57	\$ 19	\$ 300.00
DRETAC (delinquent taxes)	\$ 16,791	\$ 12,543	\$ 3,204	\$ 1,044	\$ 16,791.00
Emergency Planning	\$ 39,401	\$ 29,433	\$ 7,518	\$ 2,451	\$ 39,401.00
LEAA project (victim/witness)	\$ 13,135	\$ 13,135	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 13,135.00
Victim Advocate Grant	\$ 140,811	\$ 140,811	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 140,811.00

Solid Waste Disposal	\$	57,097	\$	14,274	\$	42,823	\$	-	\$	57,097.00
Title IV-E Contract	\$	612,355	\$	612,355	\$	-	\$	-	\$	612,355.00
<b>Total Other Revenue</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>2,496,858</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>2,378,451</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>109,820</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>8,587</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>2,496,858.00</b>
<b>Total Special Funds</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>68,619,793</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>63,032,170</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>4,604,465</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>983,158</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>68,619,793.00</b>
<b>Total County Revenues</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>98,404,688</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>76,344,766</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>20,350,281</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>1,709,641</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>98,404,687.54</b>
<b>SCHOOLS (see Appendix B)</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>111,510,601</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>97,335,835</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>10,819,611</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>3,355,155</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>111,510,601.00</b>
<b>TOTAL, ALL REVENUES</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>209,915,289</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>173,680,601</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>31,169,891</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>5,064,796</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>209,915,289</b>

**EXPENDITURES**

**GENERAL FUND**

**General Government and Executive**

	Actual	Residential	Commercial/ Industrial	Farmland	
Commissioners	\$ 1,040,258	\$ 777,073	\$ 198,481	\$ 64,704	\$ 1,040,258
Auditor	\$ 648,330	\$ 484,303	\$ 123,701	\$ 40,326	\$ 648,330
Budget Commission	\$ 205	\$ 153	\$ 39	\$ 13	\$ 205
Data Processing	\$ 160,697	\$ 120,041	\$ 30,661	\$ 9,995	\$ 160,697
Board of Revision	\$ 1,094	\$ 817	\$ 209	\$ 68	\$ 1,094
Auditor of State	\$ 58,640	\$ 43,804	\$ 11,189	\$ 3,647	\$ 58,640
Treasurer	\$ 462,525	\$ 345,506	\$ 88,250	\$ 28,769	\$ 462,525
Board of Elections	\$ 528,617	\$ 528,617	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 528,617
Recorder	\$ 257,205	\$ 192,132	\$ 49,075	\$ 15,998	\$ 257,205
Microfilm	\$ 2,322	\$ 1,735	\$ 443	\$ 144	\$ 2,322
Misc. Insurance and Pension	\$ 308,760	\$ 230,644	\$ 58,911	\$ 19,205	\$ 308,760
Cash Deposits	\$ 112,484	\$ 84,026	\$ 21,462	\$ 6,997	\$ 112,484
Unclaimed Money & Warrants	\$ 7,150	\$ 5,341	\$ 1,364	\$ 445	\$ 7,150
<b>Total Legislative and Executive</b>	<b>\$ 3,588,287</b>	<b>\$ 2,814,190</b>	<b>\$ 583,785</b>	<b>\$ 190,311</b>	<b>\$ 3,588,287</b>

**Judicial**

Prosecuting Attorney	\$ 1,073,646	\$ 802,014	\$ 204,852	\$ 66,781	\$ 1,073,646
Public Defender	\$ 583,732	\$ 583,732	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 583,732
Court of Appeals	\$ 20,899	\$ 19,887	\$ 800	\$ 211	\$ 20,899
Common Pleas Court	\$ 811,679	\$ 625,509	\$ 148,152	\$ 38,019	\$ 811,679
Domestic Relations	\$ 533,558	\$ 533,558	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 533,558
Probate	\$ 315,314	\$ 285,716	\$ 22,321	\$ 7,277	\$ 315,314
Juvenile Court	\$ 1,023,038	\$ 1,023,038	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,023,038
Juvenile Probation	\$ 489,690	\$ 489,690	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 489,690
Detention Home - Juvenile Court	\$ 1,163,960	\$ 1,163,960	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,163,960
Municipal Court	\$ 226,293	\$ 144,369	\$ 79,634	\$ 2,290	\$ 226,293
Clerk of Courts	\$ 514,517	\$ 379,405	\$ 128,115	\$ 6,997	\$ 514,517
Law Library	\$ 71,155	\$ 67,711	\$ 2,725	\$ 719	\$ 71,155
Juvenile Center Trust	\$ 24,959	\$ 24,959	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 24,959
<b>Total Judicial</b>	<b>\$ 6,852,440</b>	<b>\$ 6,143,548</b>	<b>\$ 586,599</b>	<b>\$ 122,293</b>	<b>\$ 6,852,440</b>

**Public Safety**



Sheriff	\$	8,869,017	\$	7,183,064	\$	1,449,177	\$	236,776	\$	8,869,017.00
Humane Society: Grants	\$	60,128	\$	60,128	\$	-	\$	-	\$	60,128.00
Emergency Management	\$	86,451	\$	64,579	\$	16,495	\$	5,377	\$	86,451
Sheriff's Grants	\$	681,651	\$	552,069	\$	111,382	\$	18,200	\$	1,363,302.00
Sheriff's Trust	\$	20,595	\$	16,680	\$	3,365	\$	550	\$	20,595
Sheriff Police Rotary	\$	516,721	\$	413,377	\$	103,344	\$	-	\$	1,033,442.00
<b>Subtotal Public Safety</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>10,234,563</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>8,289,896</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>1,683,763</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>260,903</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>10,234,563</b>

<b>Public Works</b>										
County Economic Development	\$	904,705	\$	-	\$	904,705	\$	-	\$	904,705
County Planning Commissioners	\$	284,007	\$	214,709	\$	50,525	\$	18,773	\$	284,007
Buildings & Grounds	\$	2,658,836	\$	1,986,150	\$	507,306	\$	165,380	\$	2,658,836
Building Regulations	\$	565,008	\$	293,917	\$	271,091	\$	-	\$	565,008
Engineer	\$	83,150	\$	62,113	\$	15,865	\$	5,172	\$	83,150
<b>Subtotal Public Works</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>4,495,706</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>2,556,890</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>1,749,492</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>189,324</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>4,495,706</b>

**EXPENDITURES**

**GENERAL FUND**

**Health**

	Actual	Residential	Commercial/Industrial	Farm/land	
Vital Stat Fees	\$ 2,859	\$ 2,859	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,859
Crip Child Aid	\$ 204,868	\$ 204,868	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 204,868
Hydro Claim	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 5,000
Coroner	\$ 240,414	\$ 240,414	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 240,414
<b>Subtotal Health</b>	<b>\$ 453,141</b>	<b>\$ 453,141</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 453,141</b>

**Human Services**

Soldiers Relief	\$ 536,162	\$ 536,162	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 536,162
Unforfeited Land Sale	\$ 21,231	\$ 15,860	\$ 4,051	\$ 1,321	\$ 21,231
<b>Subtotal Human Services</b>	<b>\$ 557,393</b>	<b>\$ 552,022</b>	<b>\$ 4,051</b>	<b>\$ 1,321</b>	<b>\$ 557,393</b>

**Conservation and Recreation**

Agriculture					
Apiary Inspection	\$ 1,082	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,082	\$ 1,082
Grant - Fairboard	\$ 43,300	\$ 19,407	\$ 4,957	\$ 18,936	\$ 43,300
Grant - Soil and Water	\$ 131,768	\$ 39,656	\$ 8,501	\$ 83,611	\$ 131,768
Grant - Extension Board	\$ 298,187	\$ 223,640	\$ 14,909	\$ 59,637	\$ 298,187

Historical Society \$ 60,000 | \$ 60,000 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 60,000

Subtotal Cons & Rec \$534,337 \$342,703 \$28,367 \$163,266 \$534,337

**Total General Fund Expenditure: \$26,715,867 \$21,152,391 \$4,636,057 \$927,419 \$ 26,715,867**

**Special Funds**

General Government

Legislative and Executive	\$ 1,664,138	\$ 1,243,111	\$ 317,518	\$ 103,509	\$ 1,664,138
Judicial	\$ 331,811	\$ 297,469	\$ 28,436	\$ 5,906	\$ 331,811
Public Safety	\$ 3,388,196	\$ 3,314,504	\$ 67,278	\$ 6,414	\$ 3,388,196
Public Works	\$ 6,826,403	\$ 5,028,695	\$ 1,390,891	\$ 406,817	\$ 6,826,403
Health	\$ 20,385,652	\$ 20,385,652	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 20,385,652
Human Services	\$ 37,840,861	\$ 37,840,861	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 37,840,861
Conservation and Recreation	\$ 1,207,280	\$ 951,439	\$ 206,641	\$ 49,200	\$ 1,207,280
Debt Service: Principal Retirement	\$ 200,000	\$ 149,400	\$ 38,160	\$ 12,440	\$ 200,000
Interest and Fiscal Charges	\$ 10,734	\$ 8,018	\$ 2,048	\$ 668	\$ 10,734
<b>Total Special Funds</b>	<b>\$ 71,855,075</b>	<b>\$ 69,219,149</b>	<b>\$ 2,050,972</b>	<b>\$ 584,954</b>	<b>\$ 71,855,075</b>

**SCHOOLS (see Appendix B) \$ 108,187,510 \$ 103,047,227 \$ 5,140,283 \$ - \$ 108,187,510**

**TOTAL, ALL EXPENDITURES \$206,758,452 \$193,418,767 \$11,827,312 \$1,512,373 \$ 206,758,452**

Study Findings	Residential		Comm/Indust.		Farmland	
	Revenue	Expenditure	Revenue	Expenditure	Revenue	Expenditure
Revenue	\$ 209,915,289	\$ 173,680,601	\$ 31,169,891	\$ 5,064,796	\$ 209,915,289	
Expenditure	\$ 206,758,452	\$ 193,418,767	\$ 11,827,312	\$ 1,512,373	\$ 206,758,452	
Net	\$3,156,837	-\$19,738,166	\$19,342,580	\$3,552,423		
Land Use Ratio*		1.11	0.38	0.30		
Land Use Percent of All Revenue		82.74%	14.85%	2.41%		100.0%
Land Use Percent of All Expenditures		93.55%	5.72%	0.73%		100.0%
Combined Net Excess Commercial and Farmland					\$ 22,895,002	

Notes

fallback  
commercial  
residential  
commercial

child support  
mun. court %  
fallback  
commercial  
residential  
residential  
public defender from state - residential  
fallback - reimb. delinquent list advertising

probate court %

fallback

fallback - unknown

fallback

fallback  
fallback  
fallback  
fallback - tax settlements  
sheriff's %  
probate %  
residential  
residential  
clerk of court interview  
court %  
residential  
fallback  
sheriff's %

fallback  
commercial  
commercial  
common pleas %  
residential

common pleas %  
residential  
municipal court %

fallback  
probate %

fallback  
fallback  
fallback  
commercial  
residential  
sheriff's percentage  
residential  
fallback - auction proceeds 256-100  
fallback - unclaimed money 975-000

Interceptor Sewer Project

\$ -

fallback  
fallback  
fallback  
fallback

welfare, income maintenance, - state  
residential, all fed 623358 from general fund  
residential, state dollars  
residential, federal dollars - county imp.  
residential - domestic relations court  
residential, state dollars  
81/18/1  
state dollars/fallback  
dept. of youth services  
State - City of Springfield - adult probation  
residential

residential  
purchase of radio dispatch equipment/communication  
residential  
placement of individuals  
fallback  
seized dollars from drugs

residential - state & parent revenue for board  
residential - state revenue  
residential fee  
fallback - property tax contribution  
County engineer - main operatin

2 Revenue back from children in custody - parents & government

conveyance fee - property fallback  
residential  
fallback  
fallback - property recording, financing statements  
residential - inmates pay money  
residential  
probate court %  
deborah Karns - solid waste  
common pleas %  
residential

auditor's office



parent pays support  
social programs  
sheriff's office - sentencing  
residential - fining person  
81/18/1 county engineer  
judicial %, criminal justice - to work on computer  
residential  
sheriff's %  
sheriff's department - clerk of courts  
residential

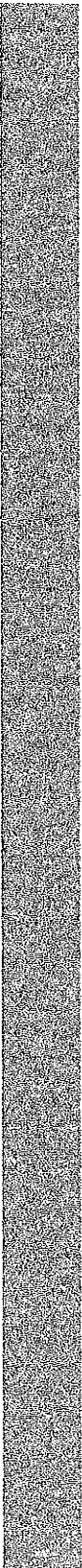
fallback or farm re county engineer

investment income  
sheriff

residential  
residential  
residential  
Pat Richards  
Solid waste report  
residential  
residential  
residential  
81/18/1 County engineer  
fallback  
fallback  
call emergency mgt people - or fallback  
residential  
job & family services

waste management district  
child welfare

Notes



fallback  
fallback  
fallback  
fallback  
fallback  
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fallback  
residential  
fallback  
fallback  
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fallback

fallback  
residential  
judicial percentage  
court % & interview  
residential  
court % & interview  
residential  
residential  
residential  
interview  
check notes and website  
use final judicial ratio  
residential

	Economic Dev	Plann. Comm	Buildings	Building regs	Engineer
interview					
residential					
fallback					
sheriff %					
res/comm fallback					
commercial	90671	194710	534762	413993	66461
sheet 3 notes	11358	27926	67901	51653	6648
fallback	210	641	2027	1397	227
interview	24	1562	6308	3812	531
county engineer	6614	1048	3317	1886	192
	1020	144	502	240	44
	241	31739	110710	66143	6063
	793859	6707	8450	3891	2984
	708	4322	6234	1161	83150
		268799	72720	520	
	973	544696			
residential	9232				
residential	440308				
residential	96641				
residential	927878				
residential	238983				
	259				
residential					
fallback					

fallback  
judicial %  
see page 3  
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fallback-mapping  
fallback-mapping

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100.00%

\$ 1.0000  
\$ 1.0000

October 10, 2003

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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[Tecumsehl@aol.com](mailto:Tecumsehl@aol.com)

The Tecumseh Land Trust (TLT) will release results of a recently completed Clark County Cost of Community Services Study in a public presentation at 4:30 PM, Thursday, October 16, at the Heritage Center in Springfield. The study, conducted by the American Farmland Trust, compares the revenues and service costs associated with three types of land use in Clark County during 2001 – residential, commercial/industrial, and agricultural. Researchers found that agricultural land use netted Clark County \$3.5 million in 2001, while residential land use lost \$19.7 million. For every \$1 Clark County received in tax revenues for farmland, \$.30 was spent providing services. For residential uses, the comparison was \$1.11 in services for every \$1 in revenues. For commercial land uses, the comparison was \$.38 in services for every \$1 in revenues.

TLT Education co-chair, Gene Barnett, says this finding is important for Clark County decision makers and voters as they plan for the future. “We’re not trying to argue that all of Clark’s 172,026 acres of farmland be preserved. This finding just gives us one more important piece of information about the public cost benefits of strategic farmland preservation. It supports the planning logic laid out in the Crossroads comprehensive plan for Clark County. It’s most cost effective to cluster residential development on or near existing sewer, water, and other services. Filling in existing residential areas makes sense and Springfield’s revitalization efforts go far to support this goal.”

Jim Timmons, TLT representative to the Clark County Farmland Preservation Workgroup, and co-chair of TLT’s Land Preservation Committee, hopes the County will go even further to reap the benefits of farmland preservation. “The Workgroup is ready to write the next chapter of the farmland preservation plan for Clark County. We’ve definitely benefited from the state’s Agricultural Easement Purchase Program. But we can’t rely on the state program alone to preserve enough good land in Clark County to keep farming strong.”

This study was undertaken with the support of the Turner Foundation, the Springfield Foundation, the Della Selsor Trust, the Land Trust Alliance, and contributions from TLT members.

Tecumseh Land Trust has been successful in protecting over 6,000 acres of agricultural, natural, and historic lands in Clark and Greene Counties over the last thirteen years. For a copy of the study or further information, call the TLT office at 937-767-9490.