

(3) -- "Matching -- purchases -- of -- easements" -- means purchases of agricultural land preservation easements -- under this -- subtitle -- in which the governing body of the county in which the land is located is required to make a contribution to the Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation -- Fund -- of -- an amount -- equal -- to -- at -- least -- 40 percent of the value of the easement -- for -- each -- such -- purchase.

(4) -- "Allotted -- purchases" -- means -- general -- or matching -- purchases -- made pursuant to offers to buy tendered by the foundation on or before January -- 31 -- of -- any -- fiscal year.

(5) -- "County" -- means -- any -- county -- containing productive agricultural land which is being actively -- farmed and which meets the criteria for land which easements may be purchased.

(6) -- "Eligible -- county" -- means a county as defined in (5) -- which has secured approval from the foundation for -- a local agricultural land preservation program.

(b) -- Beginning -- with -- fiscal -- year -- 1979, -- and -- in each fiscal year thereafter, the foundation shall -- determine -- the maximum -- amount -- which -- may -- be -- expended -- for -- allotted purchases of easements on land located within each county. The maximum amount which may be -- expended -- for -- allotted -- purchases -- of easements in any county in any fiscal year shall be --

(1) -- An -- amount, -- to -- be -- used -- for -- general -- allotted purchases, -- equal -- to -- one -- twenty -- third -- of -- one -- half -- of -- the total amount -- to -- be -- allotted, -- and

(2) -- An -- amount, -- to -- be -- used -- for -- matching -- allotted purchases, -- which shall be -- computed -- for -- each -- eligible -- county by -- dividing -- one -- half -- of -- the total amount -- to -- be -- allotted equally among those counties having an approved program. The maximum -- amount -- available -- from -- the -- foundation -- for the foundation's -- share -- in -- matching -- allotted purchases -- may -- not exceed \$1 million in any county in any fiscal year.

(c) -- If the foundation receives acceptances -- of -- offers to buy in insufficient numbers to expend the total amount to be -- allotted -- for -- allotted purchases, the foundation, to the extent feasible, shall tender additional offers -- to -- buy -- in sufficient numbers -- to -- expend -- the -- total -- amount -- to -- be allotted. -- Any -- such -- additional offers -- to -- buy -- shall -- be tendered.

(1) -- To -- landowners -- who -- have -- applied -- to -- sell easements on land which was otherwise -- acceptable, -- but -- who had -- not -- received -- an offer -- to -- buy solely -- because -- of limitations on the amount of money to be spent for allotted purchases,