

Armstrong County, Pennsylvania Application for Homestead and Farmstead Exclusions

Please Read Instructions before completing application. Applications must be filed with the County Assessors Office by **March 1st**.

BASIC INFORMATION

1. Property Owner(s): _____
2. Property Address: _____
3. Municipality: _____ 4. School District: _____
5. Mailing Address: _____
6. Telephone Number of Property Owner: Daytime: _____ Evening: _____

HOMESTEAD INFORMATION

7. Do you use this property as your primary residence? Yes No
8. Do you claim anywhere else as your primary residence? Yes No
9. a. Is your residence part of a cooperative or condominium where some or all of the property taxes are paid jointly? . . . Yes No
- b. If you answered yes to 9a, what is your proportionate share of ownership? _____%
10. a. Is your property used for something other than your primary residence, such as a business or rental property? Yes No
- b. If you answered yes to 10a, what percentage of this property is used for business or rental property? _____%
11. CONTROL NUMBER: _____ MAP NUMBER: _____

FARMSTEAD INFORMATION (Only Applicable to buildings and structures used for commercial agricultural production.)

12. Does this property include at least ten (10) contiguous acres of farm land? Yes No
13. Are there buildings and structures on the property that are used primarily to:
- a. Produce or store any farm product for purposes of commercial agricultural production? Yes No
- b. House animals raised or maintained on the farm for the purpose of commercial agricultural production? . . Yes No
- c. Store machinery or equipment used on the farm for the purpose of commercial agricultural production? . . Yes No
14. If you answered yes to question 13a, b or c, do any farm buildings or structures receive a property tax abatement? Yes No

Change In Use

If your property is approved as homestead or farmstead property and the use changes so that the property no longer qualifies for the homestead or farmstead exclusion, you must notify the assessor within 45 days of the change in use. If the use of your property changes and you are not sure if it still qualifies for the homestead or farmstead exclusion, you should contact the assessor.

False or Fraudulent Applications

The assessor may select, randomly or otherwise, applications to review for false or fraudulent information. Any person who files an application that contains false information, or who does not notify the assessors of a change in use which no longer qualifies as homestead property, will:

- Be required to pay the taxes which would have been due but for the false application, plus interest.
- Be required to pay a penalty equal to 10% of the unpaid taxes.
- If convicted of filing a false application, be guilty of a misdemeanor of the third degree and be sentenced to pay a fine not exceeding \$2,500.

This application must be signed by an owner for whom this property is his or her primary residence. If the property has more than one owner, signatures of additional owners are not required. By signing and dating this application, the applicant is affirming or swearing that all information contained in the application is true and correct.

Signature

Date

For questions on the homestead or farmstead exclusion, please contact your local tax collector or the Armstrong County Assessment Office at 724-548-3217, Business hours: 8:00AM or 4:30PM MONDAY thru FRIDAY.

OFFICIAL USE ONLY

Date Filed _____	Assessment Information: _____	Homestead Value: _____
Date Received _____	Land Value: _____	Farmstead Value: _____
Applicable Years _____	Bldg Value: _____	
Reviewed By _____	Total : _____	[] APPROVED [] DENIED

Dear Property Owner,

The Taxpayer Relief Act, ACT 1 of Special Session 1 of 2006, was signed into law by Governor Rendell on June 27, 2006. The Taxpayer Relief Act provides for property tax reduction allocations from gaming revenues to be distributed by the Commonwealth to each school district. This type of property tax reduction will be through a “homestead or farmstead exclusion.”

Under a homestead or farmstead property tax exclusion, the assessed value of each homestead or farmstead is reduced by the amount of the exclusion before the property tax is computed. You are not guaranteed a homestead or farmstead exclusion unless sufficient funds from gaming revenue have been collected to permit property tax reduction allocations to be made by the Commonwealth of PA. Initial property tax reductions funded by allocations from the Commonwealth took effect July 1, 2008.

To receive school property tax relief for tax years beginning July 1 this form must be filed by the preceding March 1. Your school district is required to notify you by December 31 of each year if your property is not approved for the homestead or farmstead exclusion or if your approval is due to expire.

Attached is the application and instructions for its completion. **The deadline to submit applications for property tax relief is March 1.**

Send your completed application to: Armstrong County Assessment Office
Armstrong County Courthouse
450 East Market St, Ste 20
Kittanning PA 16201

YOU MUST FILE THIS FORM IN ORDER TO RECEIVE PROPERTY TAX RELIEF UNDER THE TAXPAYER RELIEF ACT OF 2006

INSTRUCTIONS FOR HOMESTEAD AND FARMSTEAD EXCLUSIONS APPLICATION

Basic Information

1. Fill in name or names of owners. The application must be signed by an owner whom the property is his or her primary residence. If the property has more than one owner, signatures of additional owners are not required.
2. Fill in the address for which you are seeking an exclusion.
3. Fill in the Municipality (Borough or Township)
4. Fill in the School District
5. Fill in YOUR Mailing Address
6. List telephone numbers where you can be reached during the day and the evening if you are unavailable during the day.

Homestead Information

7. Only a primary residence of an owner of the property may receive the homestead exclusion. This is where you intend to reside permanently until you move to another home. You may be asked to provide proof that this property is your primary residence, such as your driver's license, your voter registration card, your personal income tax form or your local earned income tax form.
8. Do you have another residence which you claim as your primary residence? For instance, do you claim another state as your primary residence or another county in Pennsylvania? The Homestead Exclusion can only be claimed once, for a place of primary residence. You may not claim this property as your primary residence if you claim another as a primary or if you receive homestead tax abatement or other homestead benefit from any other county or state.
- 9a. If you live in a unit of cooperative and you pay all or a portion of your real property taxes jointly through a management agent or association, rather than paying your taxes separately from other units, check yes.
- 9b. If you answered yes to 9a, please indicate your proportionate share of ownership. You may be asked to provide a contact to confirm this information.
- 10a. Check yes if the property for which you are seeking a homestead exclusion is used other purposes, such as a business or rental property. For example, do you claim part of your property as a home office or deduct expenses for the business use of your state or federal tax?
- 10b. If you answered yes to 10a, please indicate what percentage of the property is used as business or rental property.
11. Review or fill in your control number and map number of the property for which you are seeking a homestead exclusion. You can find the parcel number on your real property tax bill. If you do not have a real property tax bill, call your local tax collector or county assessment office at 724-548-3217.

Farmstead Information – Only complete this section (questions 12, 13, a, b, and c, and 14) if you are applying for a farmstead exclusion. If you answer yes to question 13 a, b and c, you may be asked to provide proof that the buildings and structures are used for commercial agricultural activity, such as the net income or loss schedule from your state or federal income tax forms.

12. Only buildings and structures on farms which are at least ten (10) contiguous acres in area and used as a primary residence of an owner are eligible for a farmstead exclusion. Land is not eligible for the farmstead exclusion. If your property includes at least (10) contiguous acres of farm land, check yes
13. Check yes if the buildings or structures are used primarily to:
 - a. Produce or store farm products produced on the farm for purpose of commercial agricultural productions.
 - b. House animals raised or maintained on the farm for the purpose of commercial agricultural productions.
 - c. Store agricultural supplies or machinery and equipment used on the farm in commercial agricultural production.
14. Check yes if farm buildings or structures receive an abatement of property tax under any other law.