

## Warehouse's Impact on Agriculture

Agriculture is a vital thing in all communities. For a successful community to grow, agriculture has to exist. In recent years agriculture has been on the decline mostly due to a lack of farmland. The main reason why there is reduced farmland in the Lehigh Valley is because of warehouses. Warehouses have been being built much more frequently in the past 5 years, especially on farmland. Gavin Hayes, a 10th-grade student who lives on a farm, says, "We need to preserve farmland and agriculture from being built on land in the Lehigh Valley and in the world". I firmly agree with this statement because just by driving around the Lehigh Valley and where I live I have seen many different warehouses being built or built in the last five years. Warehouses are not bad, it is just the amount of them being built on farmland is concerning. Many other members in our Moravian Academy community with whom I spoke agree with the idea that warehouses are not bad, but we just need to control how many of them are being built. Gladly there have been efforts to support agriculture in the Lehigh Valley. I talked to members of the DCED (Department of Community and Economic Development) in Northampton County and they provide help for local farmers in the Lehigh Valley. They host the Blue Valley Farm Show and Buy Local LV, which both support farm markets in the Lehigh Valley. So there are indeed many ways we as a community can support agriculture. Limiting warehouse production is a solution, but sometimes controlling the mass construction of warehouses is out of our control. So the least we could do is support our local farmers by buying their products and just appreciating what they do for our community.

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