

Agricultural Property Review & Digitalization Project

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Why is the Assessor's Office conducting this project?

The Union County Assessor's Office is conducting a countywide review of agricultural property records to improve the accuracy, consistency, and quality of assessment records. This project also supports our ongoing effort to digitize agricultural building records and modernize property information management.

What is being reviewed?

The review focuses on agricultural buildings and improvements located on agricultural parcels, including:

- Building dimensions
- Building descriptions and classifications
- Building use
- Condition ratings
- Other property record information

Why are records being digitized?

Many agricultural records were originally created using paper files, handwritten notes, and older sketching systems. Digitizing these records improves accuracy, efficiency, long-term record preservation, and public accessibility.

Digitized records also allow for better monitoring of property changes and help ensure assessment records accurately reflect the current condition and use of agricultural properties.

What if I disagree with the information on my property record card?

Property owners are always encouraged to contact the Assessor's Office to discuss any concerns or provide updated information. Our goal is to maintain accurate records, and we welcome information that helps ensure the property record reflects the current condition and use of the property.

Will property values automatically increase because of this review?

No. The purpose of this project is to verify and maintain accurate property records.

While corrections to property records may result in value adjustments in some situations, the goal of the project is accuracy and equitable treatment of all property owners – not increasing assessments.

It is important to understand that the Assessor's Office does not set tax rates or determine how much revenue taxing entities receive. Our responsibility is to maintain accurate records and ensure assessments are applied uniformly and fairly across all properties.

How will the review be completed?

Staff will use a combination of:

- Aerial Imagery
- Existing property records
- Information provided by property owners
- On-site visits if requested by the property owner

The Assessor's Office will use both 2023 aerial imagery and newly available 2026 aerial imagery to identify and verify property changes.

Will someone come onto my property?

No. The Assessor's Office is not conducting routine on-site inspections as part of this project.

Due to the sensitive nature and biosecurity concerns associated with some agricultural operations, staff will not enter agricultural properties unless specifically requested by the property owner.

Are outside contractors involved?

No. This project is being completed entirely by staff of the Union County Assessor's Office.

When will the project begin?

The review will begin in June 2026 and will be conducted on a township-by-township basis. Information gathered during the review will be considered as part of the 2027 assessment cycle.

Will property owners be notified?

Yes. Property owners will receive a letter and a copy of their property record information for review.

A response is not required. However, property owners are encouraged to review the information and contact the Assessor's Office if they identify any inaccuracies or have questions about their records.

How will this benefit property owners?

This project will:

- Improve the accuracy of property records
- Create more consistent assessments countywide
- Improve access to property information online
- Preserve records through digitalization
- Improve reporting and record management capabilities
- Support accurate reappraisal and assessment calculations
- Ensure property records better reflect the current condition and use of agricultural properties