

Lancaster Farmland Trust Earns National Accreditation

In February, the Land Trust Accreditation Commission, an independent program of the Land Trust Alliance, announced that Lancaster Farmland Trust has been awarded accredited status.

“Accredited land trusts meet national quality standards for protecting important natural places and working lands forever,” said Commission Executive Director Tammara Van Ryn. “The accreditation seal lets the public know that the accredited land trust has undergone an extensive, external review of the governance and management of its organization and the systems and policies it uses to protect land.”

Lancaster Farmland Trust’s accredited status demonstrates our commitment to permanent land conservation,” said Karen Martynick, Executive Director of the Trust. The Trust is a stronger organization today having gone through the rigorous accreditation program. Lancaster Farmland Trust is built on public trust and accountability.

Accreditation will allow us to expand our base of support for farmland preservation by sending a clear message that we take people’s trust in us seriously. As support for our work continues to increase, we will be much better positioned to achieve our mission to save our home, our harvest, and our heritage.

Lancaster Farmland Trust was founded in 1988 by citizens concerned about Lancaster County’s unique heritage and dedicated to protecting agriculture from the growing pressure of development. Funding for the Trust is provided by donations from private individuals and businesses, and grants from various private and public organizations and foundations.

Lancaster Farmland Trust joins a group of 39 land trusts awarded accreditation in September 2008. Accredited land trusts are able to display a seal indicating to the public that they meet national standards for excellence, uphold the public trust and ensure that conservation efforts are permanent. The seal is a mark of distinction in land conservation.

The Land Trust Accreditation Commission, based in Saratoga Springs, N.Y., awards the accreditation seal to community institutions that meet national quality standards for protecting important natural places and working lands forever. The Commission, an independent program of the Land Trust Alliance established in 2006, is governed by a volunteer board of diverse land conservation and nonprofit management experts from around the country. The Alliance, of which Lancaster Farmland Trust is a member, is a national conservation group based in Washington, D.C. that works to save the places people love by strengthening conservation throughout America. More information on the accreditation program is available on the Commission’s website, www.landtrustalliance.org. More information on the Alliance is available at www.landtrustalliance.org.

“Lancaster Farmland Trust is proud to display the accreditation seal. It is a visible illustration to our supporter and to the farmers with whom we work that we are a good investment and are committed to excellence in permanently protecting Lancaster County’s precious farmland,” commented Karen Martynick.