

Lancaster Farmland Trust Preserves 230 Contiguous Acres

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Lancaster, PA (February 27, 2007) – Lancaster Farmland Trust today preserved three farms in Paradise Township, all adjacent to one another. The three farms, all owned by Old Order Amish families, total more than 230 acres.

The three farmers had approached the Trust individually within a 6 month time frame. They were all interested in preserving their land but were concerned that they would be the “only one” in their area to preserve. When Trust staff recognized that they had talked to all three farmers in Paradise Township, they scheduled a meeting with all of them at the Trust. All three were much more interested in preserving once they found out that they wouldn’t be the “first one” or the “only one” to preserve their properties and that they had the support of their neighbors.

The farmers also commented that “increasing development pressures in the county” was the reason that they chose to preserve and they wanted to “ensure that their children would have an opportunity to continue farming.” Because the three farms form a contiguous block of land, Lancaster Farmland Trust’s Board of Trustees was able to offer the farm owners a higher per acre payment in exchange for the development rights on their property.

“It was a pleasure working with these three families; they all expressed the same concerns when each one individually approached the Trust about preservation. When they learned their neighbors also were interested in preservation, the decision to proceed for them was much easier,” commented Jeff Swinehart, Deputy Director for the Trust. “They all were motivated to preserve their farms in order to provide an opportunity for their children to be successful in agriculture, or at least have the chance. They recognize the increasing pressures of development within the county, as well as the poor market returns on their products, but despite these considerations, they strongly felt the need to protect their farms and the quality of life for their families, the citizens of Paradise Township, and the county.”

Since 1988, Lancaster Farmland Trust has preserved 255 farms and 15,985 acres in Lancaster County.

