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Leacock Township Farm is 250th for Trust



The recent preservation of an 83-acre farm in Leacock Township signifies the 250th farm preserved by Lancaster Farmland Trust since 1988. Owned by an Amish family, this farm represents not only a significant milestone in the Trust's history, but also illustrates the type of farm that the Trust is thrilled to preserve.

Located in the Trust's strategic square, the farm contains 100% prime agricultural soils and is contiguous to two additional farms preserved through the Trust, creating a solid block of preserved farmland directly east of Gordonville.

The farm family first heard about the Trust's preservation program through Lancaster Farming newspaper. They also had heard about the Trust from neighbors who had positive experiences preserving their own land.

When asked why they decided to preserve, the farm owner responded, "We always wanted to keep it in the family. It is close to Gordonville and a lot of people stop in the house and ask about buying it for development." She didn't want to see the land sold to developers since it is such a valuable piece of land for farming.

Both she and her husband were born and raised on farms. Her husband lived on the property for 53 years. Currently the land is being rented out to one of their nieces who grows tobacco, corn, and alfalfa on the property.

The farm owner continued, "It is a good thing we are doing (preserving farmland). It is important to keep the land for what it is meant for and for generations down the road." The farm owners have four sons and one daughter, and one son is interested in farming and likes horses and cows.

The family's interest in community extends well beyond the boundaries of Lancaster County. In May the family took a 19 hour drive to Mississippi to help build homes and care for families affected by Hurricane Katrina. During their week-long stay they awoke each day at 4 a.m., made breakfast at 6 a.m. for the volunteers, and helped cook meals, do laundry, frame a house, put shingles on a roof, and build a deck.

"People are so glad to see somebody help," the farmer commented. "The devastation was so bad and many people still live in FEMA trailers. You have a whole different look on life when you come back. You appreciate seeing the trees and grass," she continued.

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Trust' Annual Picnic Draws Over 200 People

On Friday, September 29th, dozens of families descended upon the Strasburg Rail Road to ride a train to Cherry Crest Farm where everyone was treated to a delicious picnic. Strasburg Railroad donates five cents from the sale every ticket to Lancaster Farmland Trust. Guests took a 40-minute train ride aboard an open air car enjoying the beautiful farmland Lancaster County has to offer.

The picnic was held to celebrate the preservation of the 250th farm. This 83-acre farm in Leacock Township is a proud accomplishment for the Trust and brought the number of acres preserved to over 15,000.

In celebration of the Trust securing their 250th farm, families enjoyed a chicken dinner, several cakes adorned with farm animals, and sampled Turkey Hill's All Natural Recipe ice cream, which also supports the Trust's efforts to preserve farmland in Lancaster County.

The Trust is grateful to Linn Moedinger of Strasburg Rail Road, Jack Coleman of Cherry Crest Farm, Turkey Hill Dairy, and Tyson Foods for helping make the picnic such a great success.



Trust Offers Condolences to Amish Community

Lancaster Farmland Trust values the relationship it has with the Amish community and the 250 farmers who have preserved their farms with the Trust. Our thoughts and prayers continue to be with the families of those involved in the Nickel Mines tragedy. Board members and staff joined together to send a personal group contribution to the Nickel Mines Community in the name of Lancaster Farmland Trust. If you would like to contribute, you may send your donation directly to any of the following organizations:

Nickel Mines Children's Funds and/or Roberts Family Fund
Coatesville Savings Bank
1082 Georgetown Road
Paradise, PA 17562
www.coatesvillesavings.com

Nickel Mines School Victims Fund
Hometowne Heritage Bank
100 Historic Drive, P.O. Box 337
Strasburg, PA 17579

Amish School Recovery Fund
Mennonite Central Committee
12 S. 12th Street, P.O. Box 500
Akron, PA 17501-0500
www.mds.Mennonite.net

YOU CAN DO IT!

One of the most amazing things about the Trust's success is how much we are able to accomplish with so few paid staff. We try to keep operational costs to a minimum so that approximately 93 cents of every dollar contributed goes directly to the cost of preserving farms. Because of this, we depend on members to be active participants in the work that we do!

Get involved with the Trust and meet new friends who share your passion for preserving Lancaster County's landscape and cultural heritage. There is something for everyone, so take a look at the following opportunities and get started! Does any of the following sound like you or someone you know?

Q: Do you like parties?
A: Become part of a team that organizes our major fundraising events like the Annual Dinner and Pedal to Preserve bicycle ride.

Q: Do you like to take your children to fun family places throughout the year?
A: Represent the Trust at local family attractions like Family Farm Days at Oregon Dairy and the Turkey Hill Country Classic.

Q: Do you like to talk?
A: Tell your friends and neighbors about the Lancaster Farmland Trust and why you are excited about what we are doing!

Q: Are you a member of another community service organization like the Lions Club or a New Mothers' Group?
A: Tell your group about the Trust or add the Trust to your list of speakers.

Q: Are you a wizard on the computer or an organizational genius?
A: Join the staff in the office to help us with operational tasks like large mailing projects.

Q: Do you like ice cream?
A: Help us give out samples of Turkey Hill All Natural Ice Cream at your local grocery store or at the Barnstormers baseball game during Ag Night.

There are many ways to become part of the Trust Team and we always have fun! Helping to save Lancaster County's landscapes is a rewarding experience, and there are lots of ways, great and small, to contribute to the effort. No job is too difficult or takes too much time so **YOU CAN DO IT!**

Let us know if **YOU CAN DO IT** by contacting us at 717-293-0707 or email farmland@savelancasterfarms.org.

We're piecing together the landscape...

ONE FARM at a TIME

“(Lancaster County) has always been such a beautiful place to live. I have wonderful memories growing up here and great respect for the farmers. I’m distressed to see what’s happening.”

— Martha VanderPoel



Acres for Auction Preserves a 49-Acre Farm

Special thanks to the following people for participating in the 2006 Acres for Auction:

Michelle Atwater
N. Alan Bair
John C. Bear
Scott W. Boyd
Luke Brubaker
Thomas Creighton
Charles Engle
Edward S. Freedman

Lowell B. Fry
Carol Gates
Charles Gerhart
Sam Goodley
Dennis M. Grimm
Robert J. Hershock
Tamara Hinton
Charles Hooper
Richard Hurst
Robert Krissing
J. Michael Lutz
Karen Martynick

Joe McConnell
Gayle McMichael
Kyle Mohler
John Mohr
John Moose
Sylvia Newcomer
Peter Newswanger
Caroline Novak
Caroline S. Nunan
Peter Olmsted
Dennis J. Rich
Thomas and Jessie Rohner

Janet W. Rosenfeld
Dick M. Shellenberger
Larry Shirk
Douglas A. Smith
Jere Sullivan
Christ W. Taylor
Sherron Thiry
Ruth Van Horn
Don M. White
Phyllis and Bill Whitesell

What a privilege it is to be Chair of the Board at this moment in the life of the Trust! It is wonderful to work with all the folks who have made it possible to celebrate the 250th preserved farm and passing the 15,000-acre mark.

When the founders formed Lancaster Farmland Trust, they entered an unknown frontier in many ways. There was no certainty of success. A band of committed visionaries forged a path by tirelessly building a coalition in our community and giving the dream shape and form. Some of those folks are still with us to see these milestones, and some we remember fondly, and we are grateful to all of them for the foundation they laid.

They passed the torch to others, and at times there was more effort than anyone would have liked just to keep the dream alive. Down through the years, it has been an expanding group of players who have made our accomplishments this year possible. There are the devoted volunteers who have helped with events or served on committees, offering their time and expertise. There are those who have or are providing

donated or discounted services for our preservation efforts that help keep our costs low and enable us to maximize our acres, as well as those financial donors (individuals, foundations, and various community interests) who have given generously and sacrificially beyond what our founders might have been able to dream. Of course, down through the years various Board members and staff shouldered the responsibilities of making decisions and working long hours to make sure we honor the trust placed in us by the community. All have played crucial roles.

And then there are the farm families themselves. I don't know how to adequately convey how grateful we are for their encouragement, their support, and their belief in our mission and their confidence in the Trust. What a huge step it is for a family to take the step of preserving their farm. I am awestruck by their commitment to future generations.

John Cox
Chairman



John Cox

By all accounts, 2006 was the most successful year ever for Lancaster Farmland Trust. We preserved more farms and more acres than any other year and we achieved two very important milestones – the 250th farm preserved and the 15,000th acre preserved. This success would not have been possible without the commitment of the farmers with whom we work and the many individuals, businesses and foundations that support our efforts with their financial contributions.

As we kick off 2007, we plan to make this year even better than last. Like many of you, Lancaster Farmland Trust makes New Year's resolutions and I'd like to share some of them with you.

Preserve more farms – Our goal this year is to preserve 2000 acres of farmland. We already have 28 farmers who have contacted us about preserving their land in 2007 so I'm sure we'll have enough interest from landowners to reach this goal. Our challenge will be raising the funds necessary to make this resolution a reality.

Welcome new members – The latest surveys show that 85 percent of people support farmland preservation. In 2007, we will reach out to people who care about our mission and invite them to join us. By increasing our members, we can be sure we'll preserve as much farmland as possible and continue to increase public support for this important cause.

Be a resource for farmers and the community – Preserving farms is just one part of our mission. The Trust also

strives to work closely with farmers once they have preserved their land by promoting agriculture, providing information on conservation methods, pollution reduction techniques, updates on tax changes affecting the farming community, and tips on remaining profitable in agriculture.

Be good stewards of the land – In 2007, we will continue to encourage farmers to embrace good conservation practices to protect our environment. The Trust will also speak out on issues that impact our environment and our community. One of these projects is the proposed Route 23 bypass which the Trust has opposed because of the negative impact it will have on prime farmland and the Plain Sect community.

Finally, Lancaster Farmland Trust will continue to strive for continuous improvement as a responsive and responsible organization. We know that the work we do is dependent on the trust farmers place in us. We also recognize that we have a responsibility to our donors to use the funds they entrust to us wisely. By continually working to improve, we will insure that the farm families we work with and the many people who support us have confidence in the integrity of our organization and trust in our commitment to excellence.

We are really excited about the New Year and look forward to working with all of you to make 2007 the best ever for farmland preservation!

Karen Martynick
Executive Director



Karen L. Martynick

FEATURE Events

Thank You to All Who Donated Items for the 2006 Silent Auction

Mr. and Mrs. N. Alan Bair
Captain Fairfield Inn
Sharon Carlucci
William D. Coleman
John and Cynthia Cox
Demuth Tobacco Shop
Dutch Apple Dinner Theatre
Eden Resort Inn
Esbenshade Landscaping
Esbenshade Turkey Farm
Mr. and Mrs. William Fisher
Foxchase Golf Course
Furnace Run/Seglock Run Watershed Alliance
Mr. and Mrs. H. Eugene Garber
Nancy Gingrich
Mr. and Mrs. Robert J. Hershock
Hershey Entertainment and Resorts
Hess & Hess Certified Public Accountants
Hillacres Pride
Gini Woy Photography

Kitchen Kettle Foods, Inc.
Lancaster School of Massage
Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth S. Lewis
The Loft
Longwood Gardens
The Manor
Mr. and Mrs. Townsend C. Moore
Mount Hope Estate & Winery
Caroline A. Novak
Overlook Golf Course
Steve Parmer
Pheasant Run Farm B & B
Rainbow Dinner Theater
Grace Rohrer
Dr. and Mrs. Thomas J. Rohner, Jr.
Rosie Rohrer
Janet Rosenfeld
Salon Synergy
Sight & Sound Millenium Theatre
Strasburg Railroad
Tanglewood Manor Golf Club
Turkey Hill Dairy
Mr. and Mrs. David N. Young

Thank you 2006 Annual Dinner Sponsors!

Acuty Advisors & CPAs
Bank of Lancaster County
Barnyard Boys
Beiler-Campbell Realtors
Scott Boyd
Certified Carpet
Charter Homes
Commerce Bank
Concord House Real Estate
Eden Resort Inn
Ephrata Community Hospital
Esbenshade Turkey Farms
Fulton Bank
Gecko Group
Goodville Mutual Casualty Company
Gordon Denlinger
Graphtech
Hess & Hess Certified Public Accountants
Hurst Brothers Development Co.
Kline's Services Inc.
Lake Roeder Hillard & Associates

Lancaster County Conservancy
Lancaster Farming Newspaper
Lancaster Neuroscience & Spine Associates
Mid Atlantic Farm Credit
Mid-Atlantic Dairy Association
Nikolaus & Hohenadel, LLP
Rettew Associates
Sir Speedy
Smoker & Company
Snyder Appraisal Associates
Spire Asset Management
Strasburg Rail Road
The Bed & Furniture Warehouse
The Jay Group
Turkey Hill Dairy
Weaver Insurance Agency
Wenger's Feed Mill, Inc.
Westfield Insurance
Zook Molasses Company

Support for Trust Spans Generations (continued from page 6)

Family members related to the VanderPoels who have been or are currently involved with helping the Trust preserve Lancaster County farmland include:

Elva and Luke Biemesderfer
Carol and Ray Blake
Rebecca and Allan Zoellner
Peter and Carson VanderPoel
Chris and Rebecca Biemesderfer
Barbara and Peter Hunsberger

The Trust is grateful for the entire family's continued commitment to saving our home, our harvest and our heritage in Lancaster County.

Charitable IRA Donations (continued from page 3)

owner's gross income and will eliminate the benefits the new law provides. And finally, the donor must obtain a contemporaneous written acknowledgement of the qualified charitable distribution from the charitable recipient in order to substantiate the gift.

Despite a certain complexity, the charitable IRA rollover provision creates new opportunities for charitable planning and is regarded as a boon for the taxpayer who is charitably inclined but for whom satisfying the minimum distribution

requirements has meant the phase-out of deductions, exemptions, and tax credits. Individuals who are contemplating making a qualified charitable distribution are encouraged to make haste; unlike other provisions of the PPA, the provision authorizing charitable IRA rollovers is effective throughout 2006, but expires on December 31, 2007.

For more information, please visit www.irs.gov or <http://www.pgdc.com/usa>.



the Trust RECEIVES GRANTS TO SUPPORT OUR MISSION

Norcross Foundation	Computer Equipment
Environmental Systems Research Institute: Geographic Information System Training	\$4,050
Department of Community and Economic Development Grant:	\$10,000

Trust Honors 2006 Preserved Farm Owners Award Winners Named

Thirty-four farm owners who preserved their farms with the Trust last year were honored at the Trust's recent annual dinner. The dinner was a celebration of the 250th farm preserved since the Trust's beginning in 1988.

The following individuals received awards for their dedication and commitment to farmland preservation in the county:

Corporate Sponsor of the Year – National Earth Services - Dennis Grimm

Distinguished Benefactor of the Year – Carol Ware Gates

Funk Spirit of Cooperation – The Wenger Feed Mill Team: Rob Barber, Deb Barber, Amy Bradford, Andy Bradford, Cher Rineer, and Larry Shirk

Volunteer of the Year – Sherron Thiry

Distinguished Service Award – Luke Brubaker, Greg Kirkham, Ken Lewis, and Chad Weaver

Darvin Boyd Service to Agriculture Award – The late Rod Harnish – Accepted by Melinda Clatterbuck



Wenger Feed Mill Team: Andy Bradford, Cher Rineer, Amy Bradford, Rob Barber, Deb Barber, Larry Shirk, and Trust Chairman John Cox.

Support for Trust Spans Generations

If you have ever admired any of the photographs found in Trust publications or on our tabletop display, chances are you are enjoying the work of Fred VanderPoel, Lititz resident, and dedicated supporter of Lancaster Farmland Trust.

Fred first became interested in photography at the age of 14. He came to Lancaster in the 1990s and started taking photographs of farmland. He also took a course at the New York Institute of Photography where he further developed his photography skills. He continued to study and learn about composition and hone his craft. Fred also is working on a long term project to photograph the Trust's 250 preserved farms. Since all of the farm photographs taken by the Trust are for documentation purposes, they lack the beauty and artistic quality of Fred's photos.

Fred grew up on an 82-acre dairy farm in New York. They had 15 cows that they milked by hand since for the first four years

there was no electricity, only kerosene lamps and lanterns. "They kept us busy morning and evening," Fred recalled.

Fred and his wife Martha, have a long family history of interest in farmland preservation.

Martha's great grandfather, Johannes Biemesderfer, settled in Pennsylvania in 1750. Her parents, Luke and Elva Biemesderfer, were good friends with Amos Funk who is considered the "father of farmland preservation" in Lancaster County. "My parents just loved Lancaster farming. Their favorite pastime was driving around the county looking at the farmland," Martha explained. In addition to serving as President of Millersville University for 22 years, her father also worked in Northern Lancaster County with the "thresher gangs" who cut down and harvested wheat.

"One reason why people move here is because of what Lancaster County is and what it looks like. It is a shame to see it disappear,"



Fred and Martha VanderPoel

commented Fred. "It has always been such a beautiful place to live. I have wonderful memories growing up here and great respect for the farmers. I'm distressed to see what's happening," Martha continued.

The VanderPoels have three daughters and one son and six grandchildren ranging in age from 2 to 20 years old.

(continues on page 7)

Charitable IRA Rollovers: Here at Last, But Not For Long

For nearly a decade, charitable organizations have worked with Congress to pass legislation that would provide a tax benefit for charitable contributions from an individual retirement account ("IRA") or qualified retirement plan. With the passage of the Pension Protection Act of 2006 ("PPA"), which was signed into law by the President on August 17, 2006, their objective has largely been realized.

The PPA contains more than two-dozen tax incentives designed to enhance charitable giving. Of these, perhaps the one with the widest appeal is the provision that treats a transfer from an IRA to a qualified charity as a tax-free distribution. The transfer is excluded from the account owner's gross income, but, in order to prevent the account owner from receiving a double tax-benefit, no portion of the transfer may be claimed as a charitable contribution deduction.

This arrangement provides every taxpayer, regardless of income or ability to itemize deductions, with an equal tax incentive to make charitable contributions from an IRA. In addition, the transfer is not subject to the percentage limitations that are otherwise applicable to charitable contributions (e.g., the requirement that the deduction for cash contributions to public charities be limited to 50 percent of the donor's adjusted gross income).

There are, however, certain non-tax limitations. For example, an account owner may exclude from gross income no more than \$100,000 of "qualified charitable distributions" per year. A qualified charitable distribution is one that is made by the IRA trustee directly to an eligible charity, on or after the date the account owner has attained the age of 70 1/2 years. Failing to comply with these rules is likely to cause the deduction to be reduced or disallowed.

Several other points deserve emphasis. First, as the name suggests, only IRAs are eligible for charitable IRA rollover treatment; other retirement plans, such as 401(k) plans, 403(b) annuities, and employer sponsored plans, are not eligible. Second, even though the qualified charitable distribution is excluded from gross income, it counts toward the account owner's minimum distribution requirement for IRAs, though not for ineligible retirement plans.

Third, it is critical that the account owner not take receipt of a distribution if it is intended to be a qualified charitable distribution, since doing so will cause the distribution to be included in the account

(continues on page 7)

Turkey Hill Dairy & Landis Valley Harvest Days get Trust Noticed



On October 7th Lancaster Farmland Trust staff scooped over 3,000 free samples of Turkey Hill All Natural Recipe ice cream to attendees at Landis Valley Museum's Harvest Days. Families sampled all five flavors of the delicious treat. Turkey Hill Dairy donates a portion of their sales of the All Natural Recipe brand to the Trust. Over eighty organizations participated in Harvest Days and made the small village come to life. The Trust was able to talk with guests and spread the word about farmland preservation.

Trust Participates in Dutch Wonderland's Farm Fall Fest

Screaming and laughing from roller coasters and merry-go-rounds could be heard in the background as the Trust participated in the annual Farm Fall Fest at Dutch Wonderland Amusement Park on September 29th and October 1st.

In addition to having a coloring booth for children, the Trust promoted our partnerships with Turkey Hill Dairy and Strasburg Rail Road. Over 1,000 children visited the booth each day and it was a great opportunity to introduce the organization to the hundreds of families that attended the festival. The Fall Farm Fest is held each year and provides families with an up-close look at life on a farm.

