

Lancaster Farmland Trust celebrates 30 years, raises \$150,000 at Annual Dinner

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Lancaster Farmland Trust celebrated its 30th anniversary at its annual dinner on October 23rd. More than 230 friends, farmers and supporters attended to honor three decades of land preservation in Lancaster County. The event, which was held at the Eden Resort and Suites, raised \$150,000 for farmland preservation in Lancaster County.

Event attendees heard from Pennsylvania Secretary of Agriculture, Russell Redding, about the value of farmland and the unique partnership that has been forged between County government and Lancaster Farmland Trust to save what is special about Lancaster County. Secretary Redding and State Representative Keith Greiner presented citations to Lancaster Farmland Trust in recognition of 30 years of farmland preservation.

The highlight of the evening was Lancaster Farmland Trust's annual Acres for Auction at which attendees entered "bids" to preserve a farm. During this year's successful "auction," the organization raised enough to preserve a 155-acre farm in West Cocalico Township.

In the past year, Lancaster Farmland Trust preserved ten farms. Five of those farm families were on hand to accept a token of appreciation for their commitment to farmland preservation. During the evening's festivities, the Trust honored other contributors and volunteers to Lancaster Farmland Trust:

Amos Funk Spirit of Cooperation Award – Presented to the Ressler Mill Foundation for its support of farmland preservation in the Mill Creek watershed.

Benefactor of the Year Award – Presented to G. Donald and Marilyn Hess for their leadership support of the Trusts current and future programs.

Darvin Boyd Service to Agriculture Award – Presented to long-time volunteer for the Trust, and preserved farm owner, Frank Ludwig, for his efforts to preserve farmland preservation in Earl Township by establishing the Earl Township Farmland Preservation Trust.

Volunteer of the Year Award – Presented to John Martin of John Martin Photography for capturing Lancaster Farmland Trust's mission through his photographs.

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