



open  
views

winter 2019



Lancaster  
Farmland  
Trust

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## From the Executive Director

It has been a big year for Lancaster Farmland Trust. We celebrated our 30th anniversary, preserved our 500th farm and reached 30,000 acres preserved.

But, while it is important (and fun!) to celebrate our success, we aren't ones to spend much time looking in the rearview mirror. So, we've spent this year looking ahead and planning for the future. By now, I'm sure you noticed a new "look" for our newsletter, Open Views. We've also rolled out a new logo that reflects our changing role in the farming community, our work to improve water quality and the importance of agriculture to our quality of life. We've been engaged in developing a new website that will be more user-friendly, provide valuable information about the Trust and position us for the future.

So, my message is a simple one ... stay tuned! Thirty years is just the beginning. While our mission to preserve and steward our beautiful farmland will stay the same, we have big plans for a future that is even more impactful and successful.

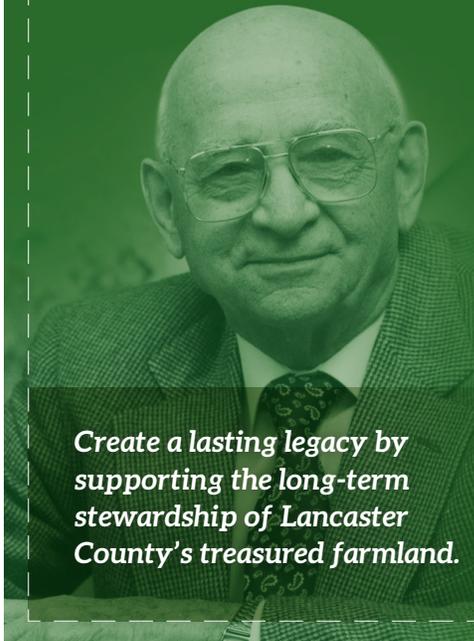
Cordially,



Karen L. Martynick  
*Executive Director*



## THE AMOS FUNK *Legacy Society*



In honor of the "Father of Farmland Preservation," Amos Funk, Lancaster Farmland Trust has established the Amos Funk Legacy Society. Legacy Society members have made a vital commitment to protecting our farmland for future generations by including Lancaster Farmland Trust in their estate plans.

***Do you already have  
Lancaster Farmland Trust  
in your estate plans?***

Let us know so we can thank you and include you in special activities and mailings.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:**

Contact us at 717-687-8484 or  
[info@lancasterfarmlandtrust.org](mailto:info@lancasterfarmlandtrust.org)

***Create a lasting legacy by  
supporting the long-term  
stewardship of Lancaster  
County's treasured farmland.***



### PROTECTING OUR QUALITY OF LIFE

LFT achieved a huge milestone in 2018 – we preserved our 500th farm! The young Amish family in Fulton Township who became our 500th easement holder manage a traditional dairy and crop farm. The land they've worked so hard for is now preserved forever, and we couldn't be happier for them.



### SERVING OUR COMMUNITY

We celebrated our 30th anniversary last year and some important people took notice! During our Annual Dinner, PA Secretary of Agriculture, Russell Redding, presented us with a citation celebrating our 30 years of service to the agriculture industry in Lancaster County. Likewise, our friend and state representative, Keith Greiner, presented us with a bi-partisan citation from the House of Representatives in recognition of our 30 years of work in Lancaster County.



### PRIORITIZING WATER QUALITY

In 2018, LFT worked with 10 farmers to implement nearly 100 'best management practices' on their farms. All that work results in an annual reduction of nutrients (18,300 lbs. of nitrogen and 7,200 lbs. of phosphorus) and sediment (30,500 lbs.) in local waterways and, ultimately, the Chesapeake Bay.



Your support in 2018 meant more preserved land and greater access to conservation tools for farmers.

**11** 

farm preservation projects totaling 610 acres completed by Lancaster Farmland Trust in 2018

**30,300** 

acres of Lancaster County's treasured natural resource and 502 farms preserved over our first 30 years (1988-2018)



*Lancaster Farmland Trust  
is pleased to celebrate  
our 30th anniversary  
with a fresh, new look.*

# New Look, Same Mission

by Karen Martynick

Sometimes, you just need to refresh your look. For people, it's a new haircut, a new wardrobe, or even a new car. Organizations undergo a similar growth and evolution process and we realized, we've outgrown our current look. After much discussion and thought, Lancaster Farmland Trust is pleased to celebrate our 30th anniversary with a fresh, new look.

Just like a haircut doesn't change who you are, our new look isn't changing our mission or work ethic. In fact, I think it better reflects the scope and maturity of our organization. Lancaster Farmland Trust is a dynamic organization dedicated to preserving our precious farmland and ensuring its long-term stewardship. We have also undertaken local and regional water quality initiatives. Our new look reflects our efforts to reach out to diverse groups in our community and engage them in our work.

This new look is nearly a year in the making. Careful consideration of our mission and

those it serves was the root of making these changes. We talked to our donors, landowners, and other organizations similar to LFT before deciding it was time to update the look and feel of our 'brand.'

Our new publications, including the recent launch of a digital newsletter, *agri-cultured*, are designed to offer readers insightful, easy to understand information about the work we do and direction of our organization. The stories within the pages of our Open Views will explore our unique community of 'preservation partners' on all sides of the process. We hope they will inform and inspire you to connect with the land and your community in ways you haven't before.

We are excited about this new direction for our visual brand. It took a lot of hard work to get here, and we're excited to continue serving our community under our new logo. Sometimes it takes a couple days for the reality of that new 'haircut' to settle in. Once it does, I think you'll love it as much as I do.



Homemade pies displayed LFT's new logo icon during the dessert course.



Acres for Auction contributor, and preserved farm owner, Dennis Grimm, shows off his new LFT hat.

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**\$150,000**

RAISED TO **PRESERVE  
FARMLAND** IN  
LANCASTER COUNTY

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**230+**

GATHERED TO **CELEBRATE,  
REFLECT, AND SHARE** A  
TOAST TO OUR FUTURE

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**10**

FARMS PRESERVED SINCE  
**LAST YEAR'S ANNUAL  
DINNER**

# Thirty Years is Just the Beginning

We celebrated our first thirty years and looked back at the last year at our 2018 Annual Dinner on October 23rd. More than 230 of our closest friends joined us to celebrate, reflect, and toast to our future together.

As 2018 drew to a close, Lancaster Farmland Trust staff, donors, community leaders, and public officials convened at the Eden Resort to celebrate farmland preservation in Lancaster County. Event attendees heard from Pennsylvania Secretary of Agriculture, Russell Redding, about the value of farmland and the unique partnership Lancaster County has forged between private and public land trusts.

Since the 2017 Annual Dinner, Lancaster Farmland Trust has preserved ten farms. Five of those farm families were on hand at the event to accept a token of appreciation for their commitment to farmland preservation. Farmland preservation wasn't just a topic of conversation, attendees took action where the soil meets the seed at the annual Acres for Auction. Participants helped Lancaster Farmland Trust raise \$93,000 to preserve a 155-acre farm in West Cocalico Township.

The event's 30th Anniversary Heritage Sponsor, Turkey Hill, donated ice cream to adorn the 40 homemade pies attendees enjoyed for dessert. Turkey Hill has been a long-time supporter of Lancaster Farmland Trust, jumping at the chance to help us celebrate our 30th Anniversary.

The night also recognized several other notable contributors and volunteers of Lancaster Farmland Trust.

Whether helping at events or serving on the board of trustees and committees, volunteers are the lifeblood of LFT's effort. The Volunteer of the Year award is given to individuals who perform extra effort in service to the Trust during the year. This year's recipient was John Martin of John Martin Photography.

The Amos H. Funk Spirit of Cooperation award was developed to recognize the importance of collaboration in conservation and honor partnerships that make Lancaster County a special place to live and work. This year's Spirit of Cooperation award was presented to the Ressler Mill Foundation.

The Distinguished Benefactor Award is given to a person or persons whose support for Lancaster Farmland Trust's mission embodies generosity in both amount and the spirit of their contribution. This year's award was presented to G. Donald and Marilyn Hess.

Event attendees also look time to remember organizational founders and visionaries, Marilyn Ware and Amos Funk. The late Marilyn Ware and Amos Funk were integral in creating the Lancaster County Agricultural Preserve Board and later Lancaster Farmland Trust.

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*Celebrating 30 years of engaging with the community, protecting farmland, and stewarding our natural resources.*

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*Attendees peruse silent auction items.*

# A Little Planning Goes a Long Way



*LFT is helping local farmers take steps to repair the waterways that flow through their farms.*

Improving local water quality is critical for Lancaster County. Not just for the safety and health of local residents, Lancaster County plays a big role in overall Chesapeake Bay health, too. That's why Lancaster Farmland Trust partners with a variety of organizations and agencies to help local farmers improve the way soil, manure, and water is managed on their farms.

Through a grant from the Department of Environmental Protection, Lancaster Farmland Trust is working with farmers in the ELANCO region (Brecknock, Earl, East Earl & Caernarvon Twps.) to write and implement two types of conservation plans on their farms: Ag E&S plans and Manure Management plans.

Ag E&S plans help reduce soil erosion through specific conservation practices implemented on crop fields, pastures, and barnyard areas. A Manure Management Plan guides a farmer on the amount and timing of nutrient application to his fields. With help from local technical assistance provider, TeamAg, Inc., each farmer receives a personal farm visit to assess the great practices already in place and determines what other practices would lessen the

farm's impact on local waterways. Once new practices are laid out, work can begin on bringing the farm's infrastructure up to date.

To-date, 18 plans have been developed, and funding will remain available until June 2019, so if you know any farmers in the ELANCO region, give 'em a shout out and send them our way!

**568**   
farmers contacted

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**110**   
best management practices prescribed in plans

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**719**   
acres impacted by plans

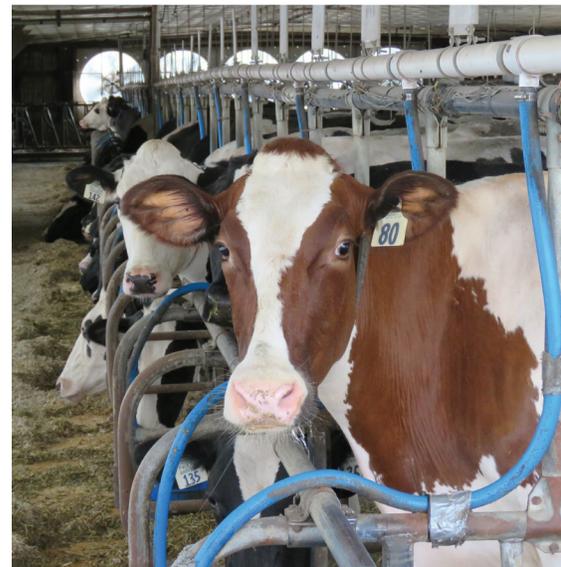
# Preserving a Milestone

From the road, the property looks like a patchwork of rolling fields made up entirely of corn and soybeans. This time of year, only a narrow driveway gives away the presence of a home and barns nestled in the fields. The Stoltzfus farm in Fulton Township was the perfect property to symbolize our 500th preserved farm.

On Thursday, September 20th the traditional Amish homestead hosted a ceremonial easement signing, formally making their farm the 500th preserved by LFT and expanding upon the celebration of our 30th anniversary.

The usually quiet farm saw quite the buzz during the signing ceremony. Lancaster Farmland Trust staff, a small group of community supporters, and local officials joined the Stoltzfus family in celebrating the preservation of their farm.

Mr. and Mrs. Stoltzfus, a young couple with three children, purchased the farm in 2014. The family maintains a picturesque dairy farm that also grows corn, soybeans, and wheat. Their decision to preserve their farm with Lancaster Farmland Trust is the result of careful consideration and the desire to protect their unique way of life.



*“The Stoltzfus family has helped Lancaster Farmland Trust preserve 500 farms and nearly 30,000 acres of farmland in the county. We are extremely proud of this accomplishment. We recognize that our success is the result of the collective effort of farmers, donors, volunteers, and community leaders who have made a commitment to protect what is special about the county.”*

**Karen Martynick, Executive Director**  
September 20, 2018, Ceremonial Easement Signing



*“In the 36 years since I moved here from Kansas, the Amish community has changed. But I’m glad they’re still here taking care of the land.”*

# It Takes A Village

Interview and photos by Laura Brenner



## MEET THE PEOPLE WHO MAKE OUR WORK POSSIBLE

### How do you eat an elephant? *One plate at a time.*

Sherron Thiry laughs as she recites this riddle to me to describe how she has managed over 400 farm visits. Sherron is a monitoring volunteer for Lancaster Farmland Trust.

Our original volunteer for this role, in fact. She schedules and conducts visits with our preserved farm owners to fulfill our commitment of the easement, answer questions, and share information with the family.

Sherron started volunteering with Lancaster Farmland Trust as a monitoring volunteer in 2005. "If there is one thing I have learned,

[it's that] you can't do this and be afraid of dogs," she quips. While she has never had a dangerous run-in with a farm dog, she did share a story of an encounter with a wild turkey, which sent her quickly back to her car.

Sherron recalls a recent farm visit, which she says illustrates the nature of many of her Plain Sect visits. "The husband was out in the fields working and the wife and children were in the vegetable garden tending to the crops. I didn't want to walk through the field and disturb their work, so I yelled questions to the woman and she yelled back answers." She chuckles at how the scene must have looked to passersby.

"Half of the time the husbands are out working in the fields and I can only talk with the wife. They are almost always knowledgeable about farm practices and changes on the farm." Amish and Mennonite culture is something Sherron has learned a lot about since moving to Lancaster thirty years ago.

A lifelong gardener, Sherron knows a thing or two about what it takes to create an environment for growth. Learning about Lancaster's superb soil quality is what inspired her to get involved in farmland preservation. "I don't want to see that under macadam," she explains of the farms she now helps to monitor.



Lancaster  
Farmland  
Trust

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Your commitment has helped  
the Trust preserve *500 farms*  
and *30,000 acres* since our  
founding in 1988.