

## **Lancaster Farmland Trust celebrates a year of preservation and conservation at Annual Dinner**

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Lancaster Farmland Trust (LFT) celebrated farmland preservation and Lancaster County agriculture at its annual dinner on October 30<sup>th</sup>. More than 260 friends, farmers, and supporters attended to honor the commitment the Lancaster County community has made to the land. The event, held at the Eden Resort and Suites, raised more than \$160,000 for farmland preservation.

Jeff Swinehart, Chief Operating Officer for LFT, announced that over the past year, the organization worked with 11 farm families to preserve 650 acres of Lancaster County farmland. The since its start in 1988, the non-profit has protected 504 farms covering more than 30,600 acres.

“This dinner is a great time to reflect on our accomplishments over the past year,” Jeff remarked about the annual event, “and to pay tribute to the commitment these 11 farm families have made to farmland preservation and ensuring Lancaster County continues to provide the tremendous quality of life that we all enjoy.”

Pennsylvania Secretary of Agriculture, Russell Redding, attended the event and spoke about the ongoing importance of farmland preservation and Lancaster County’s foundational role in the movement in Pennsylvania. He cited the partnership between the Lancaster County Agricultural Preserve Board and Lancaster Farmland Trust as a model for achieving success in preserving what is special about Lancaster County.

The highlight of the evening was the annual Acres for Auction, at which attendees entered “bids” to preserve two family farms. During this year’s successful “auction,” LFT raised enough to preserve a 77-acre farm in Drumore Township and a 50-acre farm in Elizabeth Township.

Farm families in attendance received a token of appreciation for their commitment to farmland preservation. Also during the evening’s festivities, LFT honored partners and volunteers who contributed to another successful year for LFT:

*Amos Funk Spirit of Cooperation Award* – Presented to Salisbury Township for its partnership with Lancaster Farmland Trust to improve water quality on farms in the municipality.

*Darvin Boyd Service to Agriculture Award* – Presented to a long-time supporter, Board of Trustees' member, and preserved farm owner, Christ Taylor, for his efforts to preserve farmland.

*"Consider it Done" Award* – Presented to Kay Collier for generously contributing her time and talents to support the mission of Lancaster Farmland Trust.

The event saw the support of the local and regional business community, as well. More than 30 businesses supported the event, including Turkey Hill Dairy as the Heritage Sponsor. Other named sponsors of this year's event include Lancaster Farming, LNP, MainJoy Unlimited, New Holland Agriculture, PNC Bank, The Steinman Foundation, The Wenger Group, Fulton Bank, TeamAg Inc., Bucher Associates, Cherry Hill Orchards, Conestoga Animal Hospital, Inc., Goodville Mutual Casualty Company, M & T Bank, MidAtlantic Farm Credit, and Simon Lever.

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