



**Lancaster
Farmland
Trust**

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www.lancasterfarmlandtrust.org

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views

spring 2021



Lancaster
Farmland
Trust

A MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER

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Dear Friends,

The temperatures are rising, spring flowers are blooming, and farmers are heading back to their fields in preparation for the year ahead. Our staff is “springing” into action too – we preserved one farm so far this year, and expect to have 10 more preserved by mid-year.

I sincerely hope we can host events this year to share our goals for the future and gather in-person to rejoice in our accomplishments. Soon, LFT will share details about our Honoring the Promise campaign and how you can support the campaign’s effort to preserve all 50 farms on our waiting list.

Anyone who plants a seed is investing in hope. For more than 30 years, LFT has planted seeds in our community and grown a robust and generous crop of farmers committed to protecting their farms, and a community of supporters who value the land and all it provides.

As we begin a new growing season, I encourage you to plant a few seeds of your own, or support local farmers through a CSA or local road-side stands.

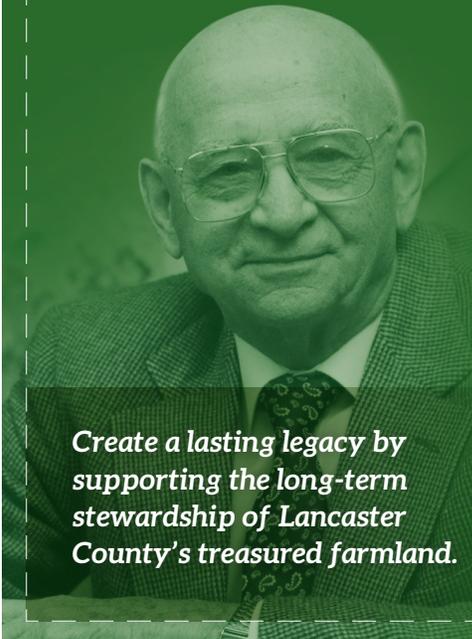
Cordially,



Jeff Swinehart
Chief Operating Officer



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.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Contact us at 717-687-8484 or
ahickle@lancasterfarmlandtrust.org

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



COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OFFER MATCHING GRANT

The Lancaster County Commissioners announced they are offering \$250,000 in a matching grant to LFT! This is the 16th consecutive year the Commissioners have offered this opportunity; to date it's helped preserve 227 farms, 13,841 acres, and leveraged more than \$49 million in support.

We are grateful to the Commissioners for their continued support.



LFT ACCEPTS TWO MILESTONE GRANTS

We are excited to start on two major projects this year funded by the largest-ever grants received by LFT. The PA State Conservation Commission awarded us a \$1.1 million grant for work in the Pequea Creek watershed, while the PA Department of Environmental Protection awarded us two grants totaling \$915,000 for work in the Lower Conestoga and Mill Creek watersheds.



SENATE BILL 64

Currently, private land trusts like LFT aren't eligible to receive state farmland preservation dollars. Senate Bill 64, sponsored by Senator Martin and co-sponsored by Senator Aument seeks to re-allocate a portion of state dollars to organizations like LFT, and requires these organizations to raise one-to-one matching funds from private donors. The bill passed the Senate with vote of 42-4 and is now awaiting consideration by the House Ag & Rural Affairs Committee.

WITH SPECIAL THANKS

Your commitment to our vision makes the important work of protecting and stewarding farmland possible. To acknowledge you and your support, LFT has established three recognition circles. Consider becoming a member of one of these unique groups.



Heirloom Circle members have contributed to LFT for 25 years or more.



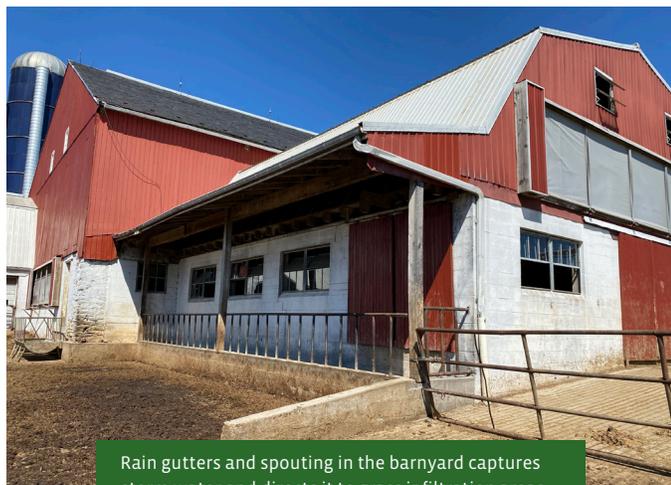
Land Stewards give regular, monthly gifts to LFT automatically deducted from the account of their choice.



Amos Funk Legacy Society members have included LFT in their estate plans.



A 2020 drone photo of the Glick family farm. The family manages a small herd of dairy cows, as well as a few beef cows, chickens, and a small vegetable garden. LFT preserved the Glick farm in the fall of 2020.



Rain gutters and spouting in the barnyard captures storm water and directs it to grass infiltration areas.



A manure storage facility holds animal waste until it can be applied to fields at appropriate times during the year.

THE GLICK FARM received updated conservation and manure management plans - a conservation plan is a document designed to help farmers manage the natural resources on their farms, and a manure management plan records how much manure is created on a farm and how it's properly used or managed. The farm also received a new manure storage unit – in this case, an in-ground, concrete storage pit that collects manure and barnyard waste – as well as an improved animal walkway, which helps provide cattle access to and from the pasture while protecting ecologically sensitive areas.

Linking Strategies to Help Farmers

Lancaster Farmland Trust is finding new ways to protect farmland and sustain a future for agriculture in Lancaster County.

There's more than one way to create a sustainable future for agriculture in Lancaster County. Permanently preserving a farm through a conservation easement is one way; helping farmers improve environmental performance of their farm is another. Lancaster Farmland Trust is an expert in both solutions to upholding a viable food and farming community.

Lancaster Farmland Trust is in the final stages of helping five farmers in Lancaster County realize both of these farm-sustaining solutions, thanks to a first-of-its-kind grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF). Though these two converging efforts have been part of our organization's mission for more than a decade, it wasn't until recently that we formally linked the conversations at the onset of our relationships with farmers.

The grant – which LFT hopes to establish as a long-term program – links two proven strategies to sustain agriculture and the environment, and can fast-track farmers on our waiting list who opt to pursue these strategies simultaneously. It's an initiative that caught the eye of farmers like Mr. Glick of Drumore Township.

Mr. Glick's 77-acre dairy and crop farm is also home to a small unnamed creek that flows

into the Fishing Creek and the Susquehanna River. After purchasing the farm from his father, Mr. Glick contacted LFT about permanently preserving the land. During initial conversations, our staff learned of other improvements he planned for his farm – including a way to protect his pasture and cows from the low-lying wet area and creek that forms following heavy rain or snow-melt events.

Through the NFWF grant, LFT connected Mr. Glick with local technical-service provider, TeamAg Inc., to receive a conservation and manure management plan for his farm, which called for a new way to store his animals' manure through the winter. A partnership with Donegal Trout Unlimited helped the farm receive fencing along the creek and stabilized livestock crossings. Likewise, four other farmers (see inset on the opposing page) from across the county took advantage of this grant to preserve their land and significantly improve its environmental footprint.

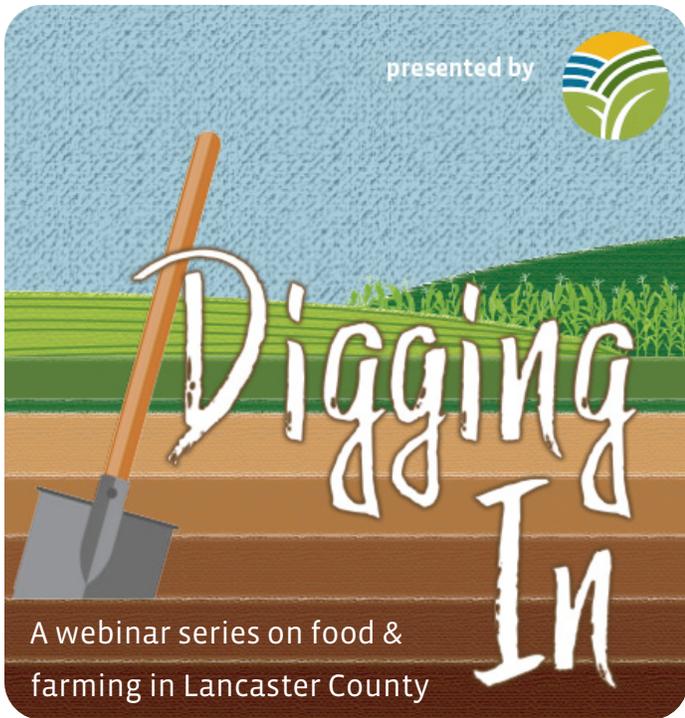
In total, this grant protected and improved nearly 400 acres of farmland. As for the environmental outputs, the reduction of nitrogen and phosphorous – nutrients, when found in excess, can cause poor water quality – exceeds 36,000 and 9,600 pounds respectively every year. It's an

impressive “bang” for NFWF's \$490,000 grant, yet it's only a fraction of Lancaster County's 11-million-pound nitrogen reduction goal and 500,000-pound phosphorous goal.

While other lands may be at risk of being sold and developed, losing the conservation investment, conservation practices on preserved farmland will always remain in place, because the land will remain a farm forever. This grant made selling conservation to farmers a bit easier by pairing it with preservation, a matter these landowners showed interest in previously, explained LFT's Director of Land Protection, Jeb Musser.

Beyond the environmental impacts of this grant, staff lauds its administrative efficiency. Instead of seeking additional match-dollars through two or three other grants, NFWF allowed LFT to use preservation dollars from community fundraising as a match to their investment. This allowed our team to start helping farmers right away.

Formalizing this initiative through the NFWF grant helped our team change our mindset regarding preservation and conservation efforts. “Now the two ideas are always linked – if we are visiting a farm to talk about preservation, we always ask about environmental improvements the landowner may want to make in the future,” Jeb said.



Join us on YouTube for a year-long series of conversations with the folks who have a hand – literally – in Lancaster County’s food and farming system.

April 28 – Cleaner Streams with Cows

July 28 – Farm to Restaurant

September 22 – Handing Over the Farm

November 19 (ExtraGive) – “Horse”power

For more information, visit our website:
lancasterfarmlandtrust.org/digging-in

Honoring the Promise

We’ve made a promise to the 50 farm families on our waiting list that we will help them preserve their land and we are committed to fulfilling that promise.

It is critical that we take advantage of this window of opportunity to preserve these farms and protect our natural resources forever.

\$7.5 million

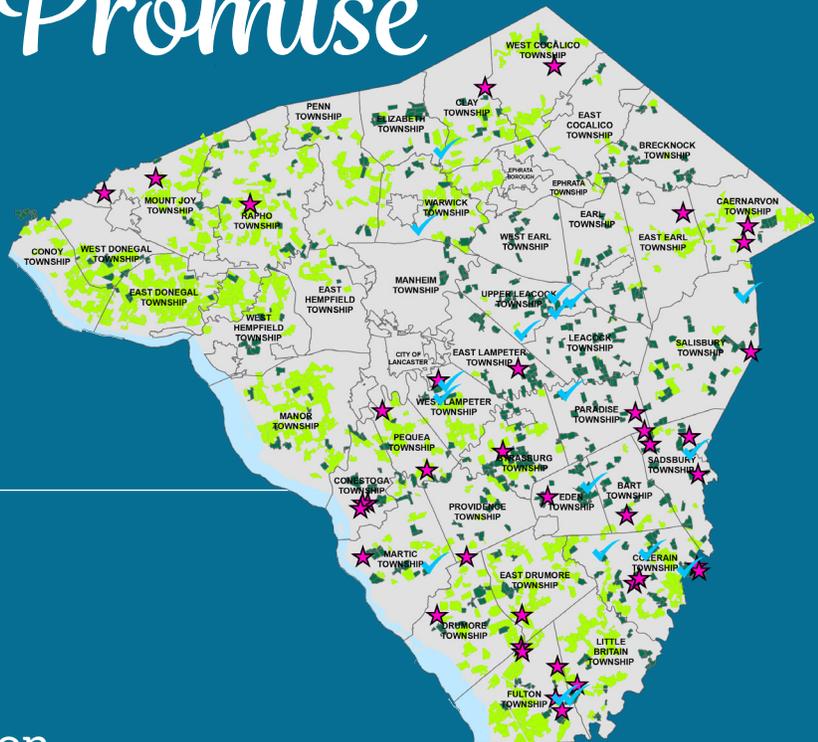
The overall cost to protect the farms on our waiting list and conserve the long-term viability of the land in our care.

\$4 million

To permanently protect 4,000 acres of farmland.

\$3.5 million

For the long-term conservation of these protected lands.



- Waiting List Farms
- Farms Preserved by the Honoring the Promise Campaign
- Farms Preserved by LFT
- Farms Preserved by ABP/Other Entities

For more information, visit www.savelancasterfarms.org

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN SNAPSHOT

Acres for Auction Farm, Protected Forever

The Beiler farm in rural Martic Township sits along a road trafficked by more mules than cars. The 82-acre farm is home to dairy cows, chickens, and a growing young family with plans for their farm's future – a future that's now protected forever.

This spring, staff from Lancaster Farmland Trust met at the Beiler family farm to sign the paperwork, adding their farm to the growing list of preserved farms in Lancaster County.

Mr. Beiler grew up on a farm in Lancaster County and always knew he wanted to

farm. The Beiler family enjoys spending time together working on the farm. The children, now old enough for a few responsibilities, are eager to help where they can. "It's a good feeling to know that [the farm] will be preserved," said Mr. Beiler. "It will be here for future generations to enjoy life on the farm, as I grew up."

In addition to the modest dairy herd and small flock of egg-laying chickens, the farm is mainly dedicated to pastures and crop fields. The family employs several conservation practices on their

farm, including crop rotation, pasture management, cover crops, grassed waterways, a stream crossing, animal trails and walkways.

This farm is adjacent to, or within a 2-mile radius, of 2,081 acres of permanently preserved farmland.

The Beiler farm was featured during our 2020 Acres for Auction fundraiser at the *Together for the Land* virtual event last October. Funds from that event, and the Honoring the Promise campaign, helped preserve the farm.

A 2020 drone photo of the Beiler farm. (The neighboring farm, pictured "above" the Beiler farm here (southwest of the Beiler farm on a map), was also preserved by LFT in 2008.

PHOTO BY SEAN HEISEY





A Community Approach

Over the past decade, LFT devoted time and resources to spreading a conservation mindset throughout the Lancaster County farming community. This work led us to a special project focused exclusively in the Pequea Creek Watershed. Our experience in working with farmers to preserve their land informed our approach to conservation, as well. We take the time to meet with farmers one-on-one, and do the slow, but critical work of addressing their concerns and guiding them through what, to many, are radical changes to generations-old farming practices. First done at the headwaters of the Pequea Creek in Salisbury Township, LFT is expanding this strategic approach to Paradise and Leacock Townships.

LFT's Ag Outreach Coordinator spends most of his days conducting site visits at the 378

farms within Paradise and Leacock, guiding farmers through an on-farm assessment process. The farmers receive a new conservation plan when necessary, and are then primed for any conservation practices called for in the conservation plan.

After a year of work in Salisbury Township, we have witnessed this community's new sense of ownership around water quality improvements. As a result, LFT is in the unique but exciting position of having many willing farmers ready to take the next steps toward clean water for their farm and their community. We knew that close-knit farming communities cross township lines. However, it became clear that farmers in Salisbury spoke with friends, family, and neighbors in Paradise – who have been

eagerly anticipating the visit from our Ag Outreach Coordinator at their farms.

Almost every farmer in Paradise Township who needed a new conservation plan was willing to use funds from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection's Agricultural Plan Reimbursement Program – an uncommon acceptance of government funding among the Plain sect community. This change in the community highlights their understanding of the importance of this work, and freed up thousands of grant-funded dollars – originally earmarked for plan reimbursement – to help even more farmers in their community receive conservation plans.

This project is made possible through generous grant funds by the following entities: the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF), the Chesapeake Bay Trust, and the Campbell Foundation.



Simply Give – Your tax-deductible contribution will help Lancaster Farmland Trust to continue preserving the farmland we love. You can give in response to our direct mail newsletters and appeals or make a gift at www.lancasterfarmlandtrust.org at your convenience.

Become a Land Steward – Join a special group of dedicated donors who have committed to giving a charitable contribution to Lancaster Farmland Trust every month. Your monthly gift will provide Lancaster Farmland Trust with the funds necessary to protect more farmland, and will help LFT remain sustainable and plan for the future.

Ways to Support LFT

Gift of stock - Making a gift of stocks, bonds or mutual funds to Lancaster Farmland Trust is a great way to support farmland preservation and take advantage of significant tax benefits. Your gift of stock may also allow you to make a more sizeable gift and maximize your charitable intent.

Planned Giving – Leave a legacy of permanently protected farmland by including Lancaster Farmland Trust in your estate plans. Through bequests, life insurance, IRAs, annuities, trusts, and other methods, you can leave a legacy of preserved land. This commitment will help to ensure that Lancaster County’s beautiful, productive farmland is protected for future generations to enjoy.

Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) from an IRA – If you are 70½ or older, you can direct your QCD from your IRA account to Lancaster Farmland Trust. You can protect Lancaster County’s farmland and keep your taxable income lower through this unique method of giving.

Shop Amazon Smile: Support farmland preservation when you shop on Amazon – at no cost to you. Visit smile.amazon.com and designate Lancaster Farmland Trust as your charity of choice. The Amazon Smile Foundation will donate a portion of your purchase to LFT.

Workplace matching contributions – Many workplaces will match your gift to LFT and other charitable causes. Here are a few of the workplaces that will match gifts to LFT: Aetna, GE, Grainger, Johnson & Johnson, and Pfizer. Check with your company to see if they have a similar program.

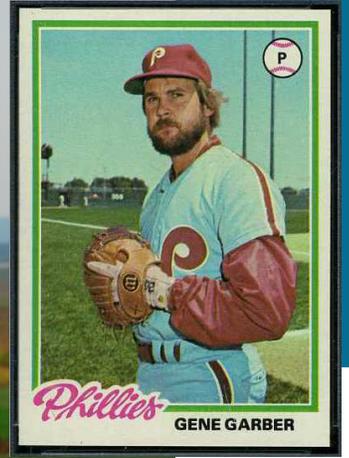
Donor-Advised Fund (DAF) – Have a donor-advised fund? Consider recommending a contribution to Lancaster Farmland Trust. Many donors enjoy the flexibility and freedom DAFs provide in their charitable giving.

Honor/memorial gift – What better way to honor or memorialize your friend or loved one than with the gift of preserved farmland. Lancaster Farmland Trust will let the honoree or family member of a loved one know that a gift in his/her name has helped to protect Lancaster County’s vital farmland.

Lancaster Farmland Trust’s work is made possible by your support. Every year, we work hard to raise the funds necessary to protect the farms on our waiting list and provide farm families with resources to ensure their financial and environmental sustainability. Future generations will thank you for protecting the land and supporting the farmers that grow our food.

This year, more than ever, we need your support.

If you have any questions about making a gift to Lancaster Farmland Trust, or if you would like to include LFT in your long-range financial or estate plans, please contact Amanda Hickle at 717-687-8484 or ahickle@lancasterfarmlandtrust.org.



It Takes A Village

Interview by Laura Brenner

MEET THE PEOPLE WHO MAKE OUR WORK POSSIBLE

“I’ve had two jobs in my life,” Gene Garber explained when I asked him if he always knew he wanted to farm. “And I loved both of them.”

Gene is a former Major League Baseball relief-pitcher and a not-quite-retired farmer in West Donegal Township, Lancaster County. He’s also a long-time leader in the effort to preserve farmland in our community. An idea he happened upon by accident, but a role he stepped into with the same dedication and passion as his other, more formal occupations.

In 1988, Gene retired from baseball and re-dedicated himself to his family’s farm. In the same year, a neighbor – and local township supervisor – wanted to change their farm’s

zoning from agricultural to residential. Gene recalled Amos Funk stopping by his family farm to ask Gene’s father and grandfather for support at the upcoming township meeting. Amos, a co-founder of Lancaster Farmland Trust and widely accepted today as “the father of farmland preservation,” planned to object to the proposed re-zoning.

Gene only needed to hear a few minutes of Amos’s concerns that evening before he decided he wanted to speak out too.

“That didn’t go so good,” he chuckled as he recalled the meeting through the lens of time. People didn’t like what Gene had to say, or perhaps, they didn’t want someone telling them what they could or couldn’t do on their land. But Gene didn’t back down.

Soon after this meeting, Amos Funk asked Gene to serve on the newly formed Lancaster Farmland Trust (then known as the Friends of Agricultural Preservation) Board of Trustees.

“Lancaster County’s success in farmland preservation would not have been possible without Gene Garber’s dogged determination and unwavering commitment to preserving agriculture and our rich, productive soils,” said Karen Martynick, LFT’s Executive Director.

Eventually, a few well-respected farmers – including Gene – signed conservation easements on their farms, and other farmers began to warm to the idea of preserving their land. What’s more, township supervisors and county commissioners also took a sharp



I'm so fortunate to have grown up in Lancaster County, and been introduced to farming by my father and grandfather. I want to continue this for other people coming along – whether they have my name or not.



Opposing page - Top: Gene Garber during a 2008 interview on his farm in West Donegal Township. Inset: Player card from Gene's time as a relief pitcher for the Philadelphia Phillies.

Above - Left: Gene Garber (center) accepting his 2008 Darwin E. Boyd Service to Agriculture Award from then LFT Board Chair Larry Shirk (right), and Herman Bontrager. Right: Gene, in a 2021 photo captured by his son. The father and son manage the family farm together.

look at land use planning to better account for future growth – and preservation – in the areas where it made the most sense.

“Gene preserved his own farms, convinced his neighbors to do the same, and sold the idea to the farmers in his township. Then he helped win over farmers throughout the county with his service to LFT and the Ag Preserve Board,” recalls Karen. “He helped turn a good idea into a movement and put Lancaster County on the map for farmland preservation.”

After seven years of service on the LFT Board, Gene's term ended, but his dedication did not. He soon joined the Lancaster County Agricultural Preserve Board, where he spent another 28 years (20 as Board Chair)

advocating for the preservation of valuable agricultural lands. For Gene, serving on a board is the vehicle to live out his fervent commitment to what he calls being wise enough to try and preserve this land.

“Gene led the Agricultural Preserve Board through a critical period,” said Matt Knepper, APB Director. “During his tenure, farmland preservation went from a new idea viewed with skepticism, to a legitimate land-use policy accepted by farmers, community leaders, builders, developers, and elected officials.”

In 1988, Gene, and his wife Karen, were the first farm owners to preserve their farm with the recently established Lancaster Farmland Trust. In his lifetime, Gene has preserved

three farms. But to understand his impact on farmland preservation in his community, you only need a map and a general understanding of where to find West Donegal Township. The number of preserved farms within the proverbial stone's throw from Gene's home is a staggering 30+.

“God allowed me to be a steward of a portion of His land, I want to be a good steward while I'm here,” he explained when asked why he's so passionate about farmland preservation. “I'm not going to be here forever. My one son is taking over for me. And if his son wants to farm someday, it'll be here for him. If not, it will be available for whoever wants to farm.”