

Lancaster Farmland Trust celebrates, *Honoring the Promise*, Capital Campaign at Annual Dinner

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Contact: Mikaela Bender-Rice, Lancaster Farmland Trust, mbenderrice@lancasterfarmlandtrust.org

Lancaster Farmland Trust (LFT) celebrated farmland preservation and Lancaster County agriculture at its Together for the Land event on October 19th. Friends, farmers, and supporters attended to honor the commitment the Lancaster County community has made to the land. The event, held at The Farm at Eagles Ridge, raised more than \$152,000 for farmland preservation.

Jeff Swinehart, Chief Operating Officer for LFT, announced that thus far in the *Honoring the Promise* capital campaign, the organization has worked with 26 farm families to preserve Lancaster County farmland. The goal of the Honoring the Promise campaign is to preserve 50 farms and 4,000 acres. Since the start of LFT in 1988, the non-profit has protected 537 farms covering more than 33,047 acres.

“This dinner is a great time to reflect on the success of the capital campaign and those who have made it possible,” Jeff remarked about the event, “and to pay tribute to Amos Funk’s legacy in farmland preservation and ensuring Lancaster County continues to provide the tremendous quality of life that we all enjoy.”

Amos Funk’s granddaughter, Kathy Kirk, and her husband, Jeff Kirk (a member of LFT’s Board of Trustees), attended the event and spoke about the legacy of Amos Funk and the importance of farmland preservation. They reflected on the organization that Amos started and the essential role LFT continues to play in farmland preservation. Kathy and her family recently paid tribute to the legacy of their late grandparents by preserving the King Farm in Mount Joy Township.

The highlight of the evening was the annual Acres for Auction, at which attendees entered “bids” to preserve two family farms. This was made possible by the generous matching grant from The Steinman Foundation as part of the *Honoring the Promise* campaign. During this year’s successful “auction,” LFT raised enough to preserve a 72-acre farm in Elizabeth Township and an 85-acre farm in Eden Township.

The event saw the support of the local and regional business community, as well. More than 20 businesses supported the event. Sponsors of this year's event include The Wenger Group, PNC, TeamAg Inc., The Steinman Foundation, Lancaster Farming, Beiler-Campbell Realtors, MidAtlantic Farm Credit, Commonwealth Financial Associates, Conestoga Animal Hospital, Fulton Bank, Goodville Mutual, Hooper Inc., Univest, Blakinger Thomas, Deer Country, Mid Penn Bank, American Dairy Association North East, EMM Sales & Service, Stevens Feed Mill, Good's Livestock, and North Group Consultants.