

## Farmland Trust Honors Land Benefactors, Boyd

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"Among 1,100 land trusts throughout the country, none have accomplished what we have here," Musselman said.

While the trust has a membership of 2,300 people, Musselman admonished, "Membership should be at 23,000, and the investment fund jump from six figures to the millions."

Boyd was honored with a special award and a standing ovation for his six years of working tirelessly for the organization.

"It is a great honor," Boyd said of the award. "I believe there is no greater cause than church and my good Lord than to keep ag as a strong viable part of the county. Others say you can't do anything about it (land development). But you can. We believe in progress but only so much land has Class one soil."

Board member Gene Garber,

who was also honored with a distinguished service award for his six years on the board.

For outstanding volunteer service, members of the Earl Township Farmland Preservation Trust were recognized.

Selected as officers for the upcoming year are Phyllis Whitesell, president; Dorothy Lyet, vice president; Kenneth Messner, secretary; and Paul Whipple, treasurer.

In rousing support of farmland, Kirsten Kauffman, 4-H superior achievement award winner, and Joy Young, president of the county FFA, spoke of the need to save farmland step by step, property by property. "No farmland — no crops. It's that simple," Kirsten said. "To sacrifice the beauty given us."

Joy said that farming should not

be considered temporary use until development, but the non-farming sector should be made aware that farming is the number one industry in the county.

Kristine Patterson, director of development, recounted the fundraising events held throughout the year. Purchase of easements are made with private funds only since no government funding is received.

Patterson said that the campaign goal is \$160,000 and that \$82,000 has been received to date.

George C. Delp was honored as the person who made the major single financial contribution in the last year.

The evening ended with an auction, lead by auctioneer Eric Probst. All items were donated to the trust for proceeds to go toward funding.

Farmland Trust honors Darvin Boyd for his outstanding service to the organization during his six years on the board. With Boyd are his wife Linda, and children, Kevin, 21; Brian, 12, and Cindi, 17.

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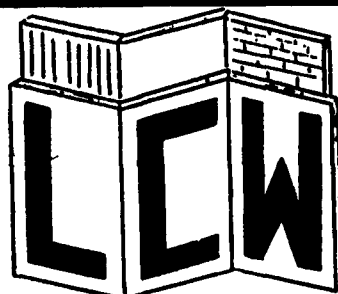
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