

Lancaster Farmland Trust Preserves 100 Farms In 10 Years

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County. In addition, the Trust supports good stewardship of the land, encourages a thriving agricultural economy, and recognizes that the farm heritage enriches the lives of all citizens. Since 1988, the Trust has preserved more than 5,800 acres.

Several hundred people gathered at Historic Strasburg Inn last Friday night to celebrate this success of the first 10 years; honor those who have been donors and supporters of the work of the trust, and recognize all the farms that have been preserved, especially the 11 new farms that have been preserved in the past year.

Ironically, the dinner was held on the exact anniversary day when the Trust then known as The Friends of Agricultural Land Preservation held its first meeting—November 13, 1985.

John Schwartz, Lancaster County agent and president of the board of trustees, said the forming of the Trust "was an idea that changed the landscape of Lancaster County." "We are here to celebrate the

growth of that plan that will continue to make Lancaster County a great place to live," Schwartz said. "We look at the future of Lancaster County agriculture to be about people, places, and passion. Nowhere in the country have I seen the passion for agriculture we have here. It's more than dollars and cents. Here you see the multi-generational farms that have been in the family for many generations. We are fortunate to have farms that have this tradition and are being replicated by the next generation.

"The Lancaster Farmland Trust is playing a big part in making this tradition come true. As you look around, there is a future of farming in Lancaster County. We have a backlog of farms waiting to be preserved. To provide food for this country while maintaining the quality of life as we have come to know it, I firmly believe the work of the Lancaster Farmland Trust has a positive future as the number of preserved farms continues to increase."

The Trust's founding president, Daniel Herr, spoke about the need to continue the good work of the Trust.

Stouffer read a letter of congratulations from one of the original fathers of the farmland preservation in Lancaster County, Amos Funk.

Emmet Mahon, Central Pennsylvania's economic development director for U.S. Senator Rick Santorum read the senator's letter of congratulations.

The letter read in part: "The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania has experienced a remarkable year in terms of farmland preservation. While the state-funded program enrolled the 1,000th farm in 1998, Lancaster Farmland Trust is marking accomplishments of its own. Your record of preservation—one of every five acres of Lancaster County farmland—along with your organization's 10 year milestone is testimony to the dedication of your members. Through the establishment of good working relations with the local farm community coupled with the commitment to preserve a declining number of farmland acres, the Trust has clearly become an effective leader in land conservation."

The highlight of the evening was the recognition of 11 land benefac-



At the Lancaster Farmland Trust 10th annual meeting are from left, John Schwartz, trustee board president; Mrs. Caroline S. Nunan, recipient of the distinguished donors awards for the John Frederick Steinman Foundation and the James Hale Steinman Foundation; and Dan Sweigart, volunteer of the year. Photo by Everett Newswanger, managing editor.

tors for the preservation of their individual commitments to farmland preservation in Lancaster county. These farmers include Richard and Denise Bruckhart,

who preserved their 48-acre dairy operation in Rapho Township; Betty Hess, who preserved a 46-acre portion of her mother's farm along Route 272 near the village of Oregon; Alta Fisher and her daughter Judith Hallman, who preserved their 72-acre farm in Eden Township; and Sarah Slaymaker, who preserved her family's historic farm along Route 30 at Gap.

Also honored were four Old Order Amish families who preserved farms in Earl, Salisbury, Upper Leacock, and Bart townships; two Old Order Mennonite families who preserved farms in Earl and Upper Leacock township; and an anonymous preservationist with a farm in western Lancaster County.

During the dinner, the Distinguished Donor awards were accepted by Mrs. Caroline S. Nunan on behalf of the John Frederick Steinman Foundation and the James Hale Steinman Foundation in recognition of their significant gifts to the Trust not only this year but since the Trust's beginning.

The Volunteer of the Year award went to Dan Sweigart for his many hours of work on special events, like the Pedal to Preserve bike tour and the annual picnic; his displays at local fairs; and his work in a door-to-door campaign.

Retiring trustees were recognized for their work. They are Lois Herr, Charles Hooper, and John Saeger. Incoming trustees are Mike Flanagan and Ted Bowers.

The evening concluded with a video presentation, "Lancaster County: People, Places, and Passions," provided by the Pennsylvania Dutch Convention and Visitors Bureau.

Berks DHIA Banquet Set

LEESPORT (Berks Co.) — Berks County Dairy Herd Improvement Association (DHIA) has announced that its annual banquet is set for noon Dec. 8 at the county Ag Center auditorium.

Pa.DHIA consultant George Cudoc is to be the featured speaker, with his talk to highlight milk urea nitrogen testing and the Heifer '98 programs.

Clyde Myers, county dairy extension agent, is to present a slide show highlighting the winner farm of the county 1997 herd management award.

In addition, the county's 1998 DHIA awards are to be presented.

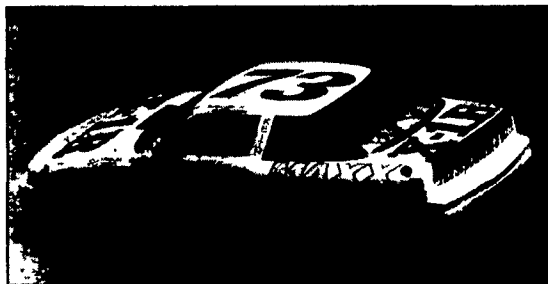
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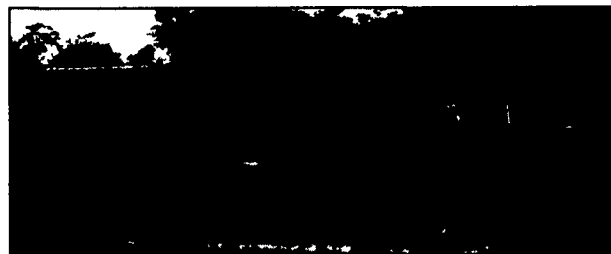
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