

## Lancaster County Conservancy Launches 2000 Annual Appeal

LANCASTER (Lancaster Co.) — Y2K, Y2K, Y2K...for an entire year that is almost all anyone talked or wrote about.

When January 1, 2000 came and went and nothing catastrophic happened, Y2K completely dropped out of common parlance. So why would The Lancaster County Conservancy choose as the theme for its 2000 annual appeal "New Land For The New Millennium?"

It really is quite simple. Significant milestones often evoke memories of the past as well as prompt one to look ahead and plan for the future. During the past several years, the Conservancy has experienced unprecedented growth. The number of acres protected has risen from 926 in 1996 to 1,829 today and

the number of members and supporters has increased from 525 in 1996 to 1,339 today. The number of preservation opportunities has increased tenfold.

Poised at the gateway of a new millennium, what new challenges lie ahead?

The preservation of future natural treasures and the fulfillment of inherent stewardship responsibilities — these are the missions of The Lancaster County Conservancy.

Spearheading this year's annual appeal is Willis W. Shenk, a Lancaster County native who is chairman of the board of Steinman Enterprises, which owns Lancaster Newspapers as well as commercial printing and radio broadcasting businesses.



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## Administration Offers Grants

HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.) — Agriculture Secretary Samuel E. Hayes Jr. recently announced that rural youth organizations may apply for direct grants and matching funds to support their educational projects and activities under the Agriculture Department's Agriculture and Rural Youth Organization Grant Program.

"Our youth are the future of agriculture, and we are pleased to offer these grants," Hayes said. "The grants will help these organizations expand activities that educate our youth in issues that affect their agricultural communities and rural Pennsylvania."

A total of \$25,000 is available for the grant program, which is funded by proceeds from a trust fund through the USDA.

Organizations may apply for

direct grants of up to \$2,500. Applications must be post-marked by Dec. 1 to be considered.

Grants can be used by 4-H and FFA organizations and agricultural vocational-technical classes to fund educational projects, programs, seminars, or field trips to increase awareness of agricultural and rural issues.

Recipients will be selected by a 13-member Agriculture and Rural Youth Grant Board.

Applications and additional information about the program will soon be available on the department's website, which can be accessed through the Pennsylvania homepage at [www.state.pa.us](http://www.state.pa.us) or directly at [www.pda.state.pa.us](http://www.pda.state.pa.us), or by contacting Carl Muller in the department's Bureau of Market Development at (717) 787-3181.

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