

Lancaster Farmland Trust Announces Senior Advisory Council Launches Harvest Appeal

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Lancaster County non-profit organizations and farmland preservation pioneer.

• Donald K. Roseman, owner and CEO of Acorn Press and Hourglass Foundation Trustee.

• William E. Seachrist, entrepreneur and former chair of the board of trustees of Franklin and Marshall College.

• F. Barry Shaw, president and CEO, Wenger's Feed Mill, Inc., Rheems and trustee, Gettysburg College.

• Marilyn Ware, chairman, American Waterworks Company, Inc. and farmland preservation pioneer.

The goal for this year's Harvest Appeal is \$250,000, and the Trust has already raised \$75,000 toward that goal. Contributions come from individuals, families, foundations, and businesses. The Harvest Appeal is essential to the Trust's ability to preserve Lancaster County farms, since the non-profit organization neither seeks nor accepts funding from any government agency — a fact that helps ensure that the Trust's program can be used by the County's Amish and plain Mennonite farmers.

Lancaster Farmland Trust is a private, non-profit organization working to preserve the rich and productive farmland of the

Lancaster County, to support good stewardship of the land, and to encourage a thriving agricultural economy, recognizing that our farm heritage enriches the lives of all citizens.

President Thomas D. Stouffer is enthusiastic about this year's campaign and the accomplishments of the Trust. He noted: "Farmland preservation has moved into the mainstream of both agriculture and good local and county planning. We have preserved 14 farms and over 1100-acres in the last 12 months — bringing the Trust's total to 117, double the number preserved just five short years ago. When added to the work of the

Lancaster County Agricultural Preserve Board, this means over 36,000-acres of farmland preserved in Lancaster County since 1980. That represents 20 percent of the farmland preserved in Pennsylvania. Additionally, there are more farms preserved in Lancaster County than in any other county in the U.S. Consequently, the County's public/private cooperation remains a model for farmland preservation efforts across the nation.

"And we've been doing more than preserving farms. We follow and respond to important issues that affect our best farmland and therefore the lives of all the citizens of the County. Ours has been a pro-agriculture, common sense approach. We have ardently supported good planning. We understand the need for growth, but we have opposed unplanned sprawl in favor of "smart" growth. We have supported changes to the

Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code that enable townships to better plan for growth as they protect prime agricultural land. And we continue to propose measures that would give additional tax relief to owners of preserved farms.

"We have undertaken numerous projects and events to raise awareness and funds in support of our vision for the future of the County. Most noteworthy is Lancaster County Farm Life: Farming Families and Their Commitment to the Land, an insightful and evocative book by volunteers Sara Barton and Gini Woy that splendidly depicts the lives and work of seven families who have permanently preserved their farms."

He added: "If you are concerned about sprawl and over development, the most powerful thing you can do is contribute to farmland preservation. And it's not too late if we act now!"

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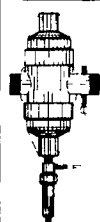
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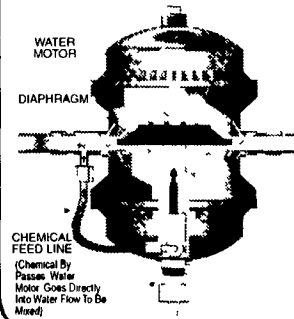


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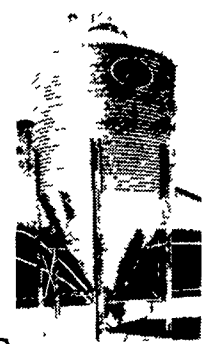
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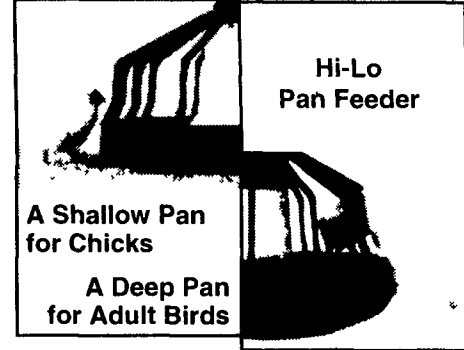
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