

# Lancaster Farmland Trust Preserves Eight Farms Since January

LANCASTER (Lancaster Co.) — Lancaster Farmland Trust has preserved eight farms, totaling 414 acres, since January — a Trust milestone. Previously, the largest number of farms preserved in such a short period of time was in 1991 when the Trust preserved six farms, totaling 462 acres, by the end of April.

The farms are located in five different townships: three in Co-

lerain Township; one in East Calico Township; one in Providence Township; one in Rapho Township; and two in Manheim Township. Both of the preserved farms in Manheim Township are part of joint preservation projects — one with the Lancaster County Agricultural Preserve Board and one with Manheim Township. The Trust has preserved 126 farms totaling 8,169 acres since

1988. Additionally, a 51 acre farm in Drumore Township is slated for preservation by month's end.

Lancaster Farmland Trust is a private, non-profit organization that relies on donations from individuals and organizations. The Trust's annual spring campaign, launched at the beginning of April, is designed to increase and broaden the base of support for

the Trust's mission — preserving the rich and productive farmland of Lancaster County. The campaign also gives current members the opportunity to renew their membership, which can now be done on the Trust's Website: [www.savelancasterfarms.org](http://www.savelancasterfarms.org).

Lancaster County has surpassed the 40,000 acres preserved mark, which represents over 10 percent of the county's

farmland. The county reached the 10,000 acres preserved mark in 1991, the 20,000 acre mark in 1995, and the 30,000 acre mark in 1999.

On Thurs., April 12, the Lancaster Farmland Trust and the Lancaster County Agricultural Preserve Board held an annual joint meeting at the Trust office, 128 East Marion Street, Lancaster.

## Pa. Trains Potential Assessors For Program

HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.) — Forty people, including agriculture producers, extension personnel, conservation district personnel, and agency and ag industry representatives participated in the four-day On-Farm Assessment and Environmental Review (OFAER) Assessor training conducted at the New Brunswick Hotel, Lancaster, from March 27-30.

PennAg Industries Association and Lancaster, Chester, and Berks conservation districts supported the agriculture industry's effort to promote environmental stewardship, minimize livestock

production impact on watersheds, improve public perception of livestock production, and move agriculture toward being a self-regulated industry by sponsoring the OFAER Program by the America's Clean Water Foundation.

Forty potential assessors were trained to provide livestock producers a confidential comprehensive and objective assessment of water quality, odor, and pest risk factors at their operations. Producer participation is voluntary and at no charge to the producer. The producer participation and farm specific information is kept

strictly confidential.

The potential assessors will conduct assessments as teams of professionals across Pennsylvania.

The On-Farm Assessment and Environmental Review was initially developed for use in the pork industry. However, the assessment tools have been developed and refined to assess a wide variety of production facilities such as dairy, poultry, egg-laying, and open-lot cattle operations.

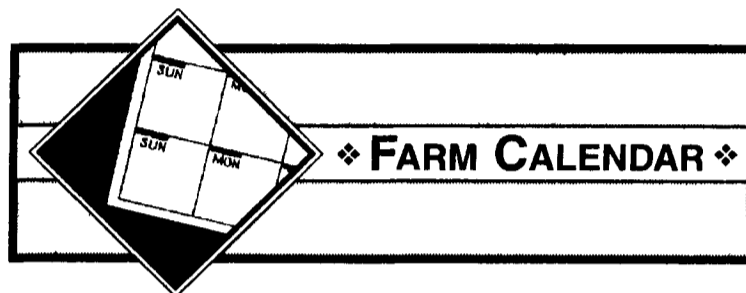
The four-day intensive training culminated with an on-farm assessment of a local poultry and dairy facility. Brubaker Farms, Mt. Joy, owned and operated by Luke Brubaker and his sons,

Mike and Tony, volunteered their 600-cow dairy as a training site for assessors as well as a completed assessment by the OFAER program.

In addition, Wenger's Feed Mill, Inc., Rheems, volunteered a pullet house, as a training site, and a complete OFAER review.

All of Wenger's Feed Mill, Inc. poultry facilities have completed the OFAER program.

The On-Farm Assessment and Environmental Review Program is a national program promoting the importance of sound environmental management of livestock operations in the U.S.



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p.m., also April 25, 8 a.m.-noon.  
 MidAtlantic Farm Credit meeting, Somerset Civic Center, Princess Ann, Md.  
 Family Living and Consumer Sciences Teacher's Banquet, Centerville Comfort Inn, 4:30 p.m., (717) 394-6851.  
 Sheep Shearing School, Whiting Farm, Pulaski, 9 a.m., thru April 25.  
 Breast Cancer Awareness Program, Bird In Hand Fire Hall, 7 p.m., (717) 687-7434.  
 Foot and Mouth Disease and BSE meeting, Eldred Township Volunteer Fire Company, Warrentonville, 7 p.m., (717) 772-2852.

**Wednesday, April 25**  
 Secretaries Day.  
 District IV Bradford County Horse and Pony Show, extension office, 7:30 p.m.  
 Bradford County Ag Business Breakfast, Beeman's Restaurant, 7 a.m.-11 a.m.  
 MidAtlantic Farm Credit meeting, Caroline County 4-H Park, Denton, Md.  
 Seminar On Marketing, Promotion, and Advertising, Adams County cooperative extension, Gettysburg, 6 p.m.-9 p.m.  
 Foot and Mouth Disease and BSE meeting, Penns Valley High School, Spring Mills, 7 p.m., also York County 4-H Center, 7 p.m., (717) 772-2852.  
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