

# Lancaster Farmland Trust Receives Top Rating

LANCASTER (Lancaster Co.) — Planning to make a contribution to a nonprofit organization by the end of 2002? Is the recipient organization using the money in the most effective way, ensuring that your contribution makes the greatest impact on the cause you care about?

In the wake of 9/11 related nonprofit scandals, there is a growing interest in charity watchdog groups to objectively rate the operation of nonprofit organizations.

Charity Navigator, a Web-based watchdog group recently gave local Lancaster Farmland Trust, a nonprofit organization that helps Lancaster County farmers preserve their land, a four-star rating for organizational efficiency on their Website. This is the highest rating possible.

"The board of directors at the Oxford Foundation are concerned that the foundation's contributions produce the maximum outcome per dollar. To assist our decision on which nonprofit organizations to fund, we routinely turn to tools like Charity Naviga-

tor to help us evaluate the effectiveness of the organization's programs," said Phil Calhoun, executive director of The Oxford Foundation. "It gives us a great deal of peace of mind to invest in programs like Lancaster Farmland Trust that use a business model that makes them highly effective."

Charity Navigator, founded in 2001, is a free, Web-based service accessed at [www.charitynavigator.org](http://www.charitynavigator.org). The group uses publicly available 990 forms (the form nonprofit organizations and foundations use to report to the IRS) to analyze and evaluate the charity's overall financial health. The four-star designation that Lancaster Farmland Trust receives means that the organization exceeds industry standards and outperforms most charities in its cause. The site also compares organizations with other regional and national organizations in related fields. The site evaluates 1,700 organizations, 33 percent of which receive a four-star rating.

There are two basic criteria that the group employs — the

short-term spending practices and the long-term sustainability of the organization. To determine the short-term practices, Charity Navigator looks at an organization's fundraising efficiency, fundraising expenses, program expenses, and administrative ex-

penses to provide potential donors with a picture of how efficiently the organization operates on a day-to-day basis. Lancaster Farmland Trust has a fundraising efficiency of \$.01 spent to raise each dollar. Fundraising and administration account for 5.5 percent of the Trust's expenses, with the balance being spent on programs.

Long-term sustainability is evaluated by looking at an organization's average annual growth of operating revenue, average annual growth or programs and services, and working capital ratio. Lancaster Farmland Trust scored high overall on long-term sustainability.

"Our board members are

very pleased with this rating," said Ted Bowers, Lancaster Farmland Trust board chair. "During the past year, the board has taken a hard look at the day-to-day operations of the Trust. We are pleased that our interest in using our donor's money for maximum return has been recognized by Charity Navigator."

Lancaster Farmland Trust, in its 14th year, has preserved 154 farms covering 9,771 acres.

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## Office Closed Christmas, New Year's

On Christmas Day, Wednesday, Dec. 25, Lancaster Farming office is closed. The office will reopen Thursday, Dec. 26.

For the Dec. 28 issue, there are some deadline changes: Public Sale and Mailbox ads, 5 p.m., Friday, Dec. 20.

Classified, Section D ads — 3 p.m., Monday, Dec. 23.

Classified, Section C, Farm Equipment ads, 3 p.m., Monday, Dec. 23.

Section A ads, 9 a.m., Thursday, Dec. 26.

General news — noon, Thursday, Dec. 26.

On New Year's Day, Wednesday, Jan. 1, Lancaster Farming office is closed. The office will reopen Thursday, Jan. 2.

For the Jan. 4 issue, there are some early deadline changes:

Public Sale and Mailbox ads, 5 p.m., Friday, Dec. 27.

Classified, Section D ads — 3 p.m., Monday, Dec. 30.

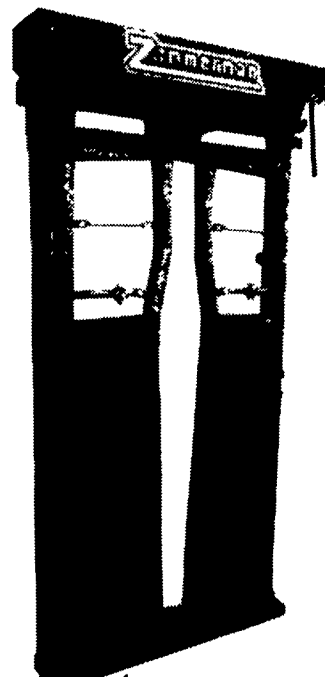
Classified, Section C, Farm Equipment ads, 3 p.m., Monday, Dec. 30.

Section A ads, 9 a.m., Thursday, Jan. 2.

General news — noon, Thursday, Jan. 2.

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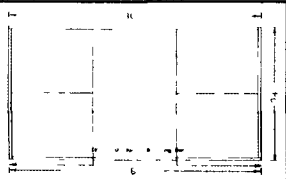
FABRAL

Reuben Esh  
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East Earl, PA 17519

### The Charleston: 4 Stall Barn 24'x36'x10'

1-12'x10' Split Slider Door  
1-3' Steel Entrance Door  
12" Overhang on both 36' sides  
4-8' Skylights in the roof  
All Painted Steel Roof & Sides  
(Stall Pkg 4-12'x12' add \$7,200)

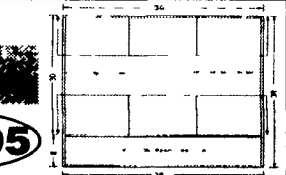
\$8295



### The Saratoga: 6 Stall Barn 30'x36'x10'

2-10'x10' Split Slider Doors  
1-3' Steel Entrance Door  
12" Overhang all 4 sides  
8'x36' Open Lean To  
All Painted Steel Roof & Sides  
(Stall Pkg 6-10'x12' add \$10,200)

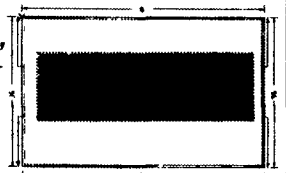
\$11,995



### The Belmont: 8 Stall Barn

2-12'x12' Split Slider Doors  
1-3' Steel Entrance Door  
12" Overhang all 4 sides  
6/12 Attic Truss with Loft  
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