



PICKING UP THE PACE OF PRESERVATION IN CUMBERLAND COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

BACKGROUND

Located in south central Pennsylvania, Cumberland County is the fastest growing county in the state with 5.6 percent population growth since 2010. Transportation, shipping, retail and service industries are fueling development pressure, however, agriculture remains the primary land use. Of the 352,000 total acres in the county, 155,000 acres, or 44 percent, are currently in farming. Agriculture also makes a significant contribution to the Cumberland County economy. According to the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, one in six jobs in Cumberland County is in agriculture or related businesses.

The permanent protection of prime farmland and the stewardship of water resources are two of the objectives of the county's recently updated comprehensive plan. The county has an active agricultural preservation program. In 2016, the Cumberland County Agricultural Land Preservation Board committed to a goal of preserving 50 percent of the Agriculture-Prime Farmland Area, totaling 45,000 acres, as designated on the county's Future Land Use Map. Since the inception of the program 25 years ago, the county has preserved 19,051 acres with 956 acres pending.

While the county's efforts to protect its prime farmland have been successful, it has been less successful engaging the growing Plain Sect population in the county. These landowners, primarily conservative Mennonite with some Amish, have migrated to the western part of the county from other areas, most notably Lancaster County. Their numbers, along with the amount of land they control, continues to increase.

Cumberland County has two major watersheds, the Conodoguinet and the Yellow Breeches, and lies wholly within the larger Chesapeake Bay watershed. It is one of five Pennsylvania counties identified by the Chesapeake Bay Foundation as contributing "the most pollution from agriculture" to the Chesapeake Bay watershed. The Foundation noted that "investing in conservation practices in Cumberland County would return the greatest reductions for new restoration dollars." Of the 242 miles of impaired waterways within Cumberland County identified by the Susquehanna River Basin Commission, almost half is due to agricultural operations.

In 2009, an Executive Order declared the Chesapeake Bay a "national treasure" and called for expanded efforts to protect and restore the watershed. In response, the 2010 Executive Order Strategy for Protecting and Restoring the Chesapeake Bay Watershed was developed. The Executive Order Strategy includes a goal of protecting an additional two million acres of natural and working lands throughout the

watershed by 2025. The Chesapeake Working Lands Conservation Strategy focuses on the use of easements and related tools to permanently protect private farmland. In addition to easements, the strategy stresses the use of complementary programs that support the stewardship and viability of working lands resulting in water quality improvements to local waterways and the Bay.

The Cumberland County Commissioners recognize the importance of preserving the county's farmland and protecting its water resources. To accelerate their efforts, achieve the objectives of their comprehensive plan, and reach a constituency they have largely been unable to engage, the Commissioners contacted Lancaster Farmland Trust to explore a public / private partnership to help accomplish its goals.

Initial meetings included the commissioners, chief clerk, county planning director, farmland preservation administrator, Conservation District and Penn State Ag Extension staff, and the Trust's Executive Director and Chief Operating Officer. From that dialogue, the county commissioners determined that the Trust's experience in land protection, track record of implementing water quality improvement projects, and trusted relationship with the agricultural community (including a unique relationship with the Plain Sect community) could assist the county in determining how to accelerate and expand its efforts to preserve agricultural land and improve water quality.

Lancaster Farmland Trust applied for and received a Chesapeake Bay Technical Capacity Grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) to complete the project.

METHODOLOGY

The first step in the successful completion of the project was to define the objectives. Based on meetings with the commissioners, input from county staff, and discussions with NFWF, the following long-term objectives were identified:

- Create a robust public / private partnership in Cumberland County, Pennsylvania, comprised of a variety of community stakeholders to advance farmland protection and stewardship for the health of the Chesapeake Bay.
- Create an education and outreach program to advance the objectives of the county's comprehensive plan.
- Engage agricultural stakeholders, municipalities, business, church and community leaders, and watershed and other volunteer organizations in a dialogue about needs, challenges and obstacles to achieving the county's land and natural resource protection objectives.
- Diversify the county's existing preservation strategy and accelerate the rate of farmland preservation.
- Evaluate public and private funding mechanisms to implement, accelerate and expand the protection of priority farmland and the implementation of effective conservation practices.
- Position Cumberland County to protect the most strategic land and to implement cost-effective best management practices to maximize water quality improvements.

Once the objectives of the project were identified, a plan to achieve the objectives was developed that included the following tasks:

- Engage community stakeholders through individual meetings, workshops and focus groups to determine their interest in and support of a public / private partnership. Stakeholders include commissioners, Ag Preservation Board, Farm Bureau, Penn State Ag Extension, Conservation District, NRCS, municipal officials, and church leaders.
- Work with county staff to develop criteria for prioritizing parcels for preservation and conservation improvements. Identify strategic geographic areas to focus efforts.
- Conduct workshops to provide education and outreach to landowners in the priority areas.
- Meet individually with select agricultural producers in focus areas to solicit input.
- Explore a variety of private funding mechanisms for a possible program expansion.
- Based on results of workshops, focus groups and farmers meetings, develop a list of needs, challenges, obstacles and opportunities to implementing a private land protection and stewardship program as a complement to the government programs already in existence in Cumberland County.

The specific tasks were divided into two general areas:

Community / public / funders – overseen by Karen Martynick, Executive Director
Landowner / municipal / agricultural stakeholders – overseen by Jeff Swinehart, Chief Operating Officer

Additional Lancaster Farmland Trust staff were utilized including Jeb Musser, Director of Land Protection; Jordan Clymer, Land Protection Assistant; Laura Brenner, Communications Coordinator; and, Amanda Hickle, Director of Development and Communications. The Trust also engaged Ken Pacanowski of Heritage Land Consulting to assist with landowner outreach.

IMPLEMENTATION

Task 1: Engage community stakeholders through individual meetings, workshops and focus groups to determine their interest in and support of a public / private partnership. Stakeholders to include commissioners, Ag Preservation Board, Farm Bureau, Penn State Ag Extension, Conservation District, NRCS, municipal officials, business and community leaders, and conservation organizations.

Focus groups:

Two focus groups were conducted during the spring. The first was held on April 17, 2018 at the North Newton Township building and included municipal officials. An invitation was sent to targeted municipalities by the Cumberland County Planning Department. A questionnaire was developed and sent to attendees after the meeting to secure additional information. Further follow-up was directed to attendees who indicated they could provide information about Plain Sect farmers in their townships.

The attendance list, agenda and questions are included as Appendix 1 at the end of this report.

General themes identified from this discussion included the following:

- The Plain Sect population is growing in the county – primarily Old Order Amish.
- Old Order Mennonite communities own or control vast amounts of farmland in some municipalities.
- Rural enterprises on farms are growing and expanding as a means of keeping the farm viable or the next generation on the farm.
- Plain Sect tend to avoid participation in government programs due to their religious beliefs – they are discouraged by church leadership from participating in these programs.
- Farmers are maximizing the use of the land for agricultural production with little regard to the environmental impacts – manure application during winter months or before rain events, removal of woodlands for agricultural use, plowing to the roadway leaving no buffer strip, etc.
- Most municipalities do not have ordinances requiring farmers have an Agriculture Erosion and Sedimentation Plan (Ag E&S plan) or Manure/Nutrient Management Plans
- Municipalities find it hard to enforce and inspect best management practices for stormwater and agriculture.
- There is a lack of landowner commitment to the maintenance requirements of best management practices.
- High nitrate levels in private wells are common and primarily due to agricultural operations.

A second focus group for agricultural stakeholders was held on June 18, 2018 at the offices of the Cumberland County Planning Department. Emails were sent inviting representatives from the Conservation District, NRCS, Penn State Ag Extension, Capital RC&D, Farm Bureau, and the Chesapeake Bay Foundation.

The attendance list, agenda and questions are included as Appendix 2 at the end of this report.

General themes identified from this discussion included the following:

- The Old Order Mennonite community seems to have a greater appetite for implementing conservation measures than the Old Order Amish.
- There has been limited success with providing financial and technical assistance to Plain Sect communities for best management practices.
- Younger generations of Plain Sect communities seem to be more willing to implement best management practices.
- Plain Sect communities seem to be motivated to make changes to management practices that result in improved soil health.
- There is great confusion among the agricultural community regarding what “compliance” means for water quality.

- Poultry and produce operations are growing in the county while dairy is decreasing.
- Development pressure concerns are primarily related to warehouse expansion with the greatest threat along the Rt. 81 corridor where farmland is more productive and primarily owned by Old Order Mennonites.
- Concern of the quality of Ag E&S and Manure Management Plans developed for Plain Sect – not developed by the Natural Resources Conservation Service or private consultants (ie. TeamAg and Red Barn Consulting).
- Belief that Plain Sect communities have some awareness of farmland preservation and water quality issues.
- An interest in protecting smaller Plain Sect owned properties – 10 – 50 acres.
- Flexibility in easement restrictions and non-governmental funding are key to a successful alternative farmland preservation strategy.
- Chesapeake Bay Foundation has capacity and funding to assist with best management practice implementation.

Interviews:

Individual interviews were conducted with a cross-section of community leaders and individuals involved in philanthropy and conservation activities in Cumberland County and central Pennsylvania. The purpose of the interviews was to attain knowledge about the community, assess levels of understanding and support within the business community and among the public, evaluate potential funding sources and determine the level of interest from other conservation organizations working within Cumberland County or nearby. Those interviewed included:

Shireen Farr – Interim CEO, Cumberland Area Economic Development Corporation
 Michelle Crowley – President and CEO, Carlisle Area Chamber of Commerce
 George Book – President and CEO, West Shore Chamber of Commerce
 Scott Brown – Executive Director, Shippensburg Area Chamber of Commerce
 Jennifer Doyle – Vice President of Development and Community Investment, Foundation for Enhancing Communities
 Anna Yelk – Executive Director, Central Pennsylvania Conservancy
 Molly Morrison – President and CEO, Natural Lands Trust
 Bill Chain – Senior Agriculture Program Director, Chesapeake Bay Foundation

Task 2 - Work with county staff to develop criteria for prioritizing parcels for preservation and conservation improvements. Identify strategic geographic areas to focus efforts.

The scope of outreach to the agricultural community was determined in consultation with county staff which focused upon local geographic knowledge of Plain Sect communities, watersheds within the county with water quality impairments, and analyses utilizing geographic information systems (GIS). It was determined, primarily due to surname of property ownership, that approximately 315 farms (10 acre or more zoned agriculture) were the primary targeted scope of the project. See Appendix 3.

The constituency consisted of mostly members of conservative Old Order Mennonite communities, with a small segment representing members of Old Order Amish communities. It was discovered during the project that many of these communities were established by the migration of members from Lancaster County in the 1970s and 1980s. At the direction of county staff, the Trust also conducted outreach to landowners who own farms in the “shale ground” region of the county who have expressed an interest in farmland preservation but consistently rank low in the program due to poor soil quality.

The NFWF grant included the ability to create a GIS based Land Evaluation Site Assessment (LESA) ranking tool to assist with parcel selection for preservation, but was not pursued at the direction of county staff. County staff elected to have additional resources committed to farmer engagement and outreach and felt the development of a LESA system could be completed by the county at a later date if the establishment of a complimentary private, non-profit farmland preservation program was determined feasible.

Task 3 - Conduct workshops to provide education and outreach to landowners in the priority areas.

The Trust presented at three farmer related field days or informational meetings, which included a field day at the Arthur Martin farm hosted by Cumberland Planters (July 31, 2018), a farmer meeting hosted by Cumberland County Agricultural Land Preservation Board (November 1, 2018), and a farmer meeting hosted by the Cumberland County Conservation District at the Shippensburg Auction Center (December 12, 2018).

At all events, Trust staff presented to the attendees about the collaborative approach to farmland preservation in Lancaster County, the scope and intent of this feasibility study, and how a private, non-profit alternative farmland preservation program may differ and complement the existing county program. 200+ farmers attended these events and Trust staff engaged in productive dialogue with dozens of farmers. In addition, the Trust developed an informational flyer regarding the project, a survey for attendees to complete and offered a “give away” of a Stihl powerhead and weed trimmer to one lucky participant. See Appendix 4.

Task 4 – Meet individually with select agricultural producers in focus areas to solicit support.

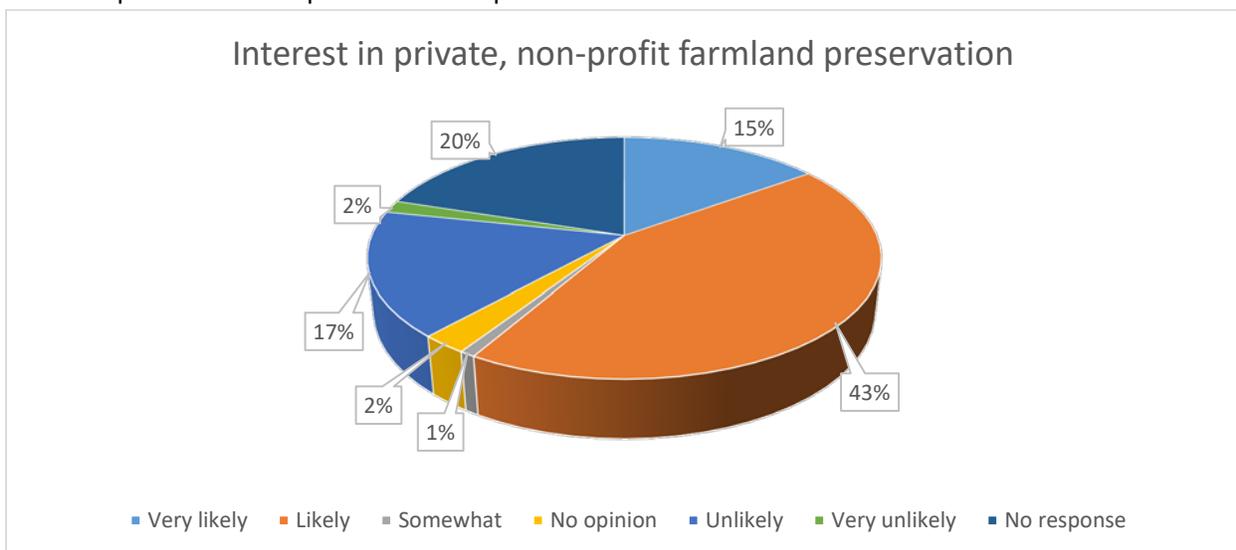
Understanding that many farmers, especially Plain Sect, may be reluctant to speak in a public setting, the Trust initiated on-farm visits to conduct face-to-face interviews. These visits were completed by Ken Pacanowski of Heritage Land Consulting. The geographic scope of this outreach was determined by local knowledge of population densities of Plain Sect communities and via the GIS analyses. County staff also provided names of landowners to visit who are currently on the county’s waiting list, but consistently rank low. These landowners are primarily located within the “shale ground” of the county. Visits were conducted on 92 farms which ranged in size from 20 to 1,500 acres.

In addition, the survey was sent via postal mail to all 315 landowners identified during the initial analyses with a cover letter explaining the intent of the inquiry. 28 surveys were completed and returned.

A visual of landowners who were interviewed or returned surveys is shown on Appendix 5.

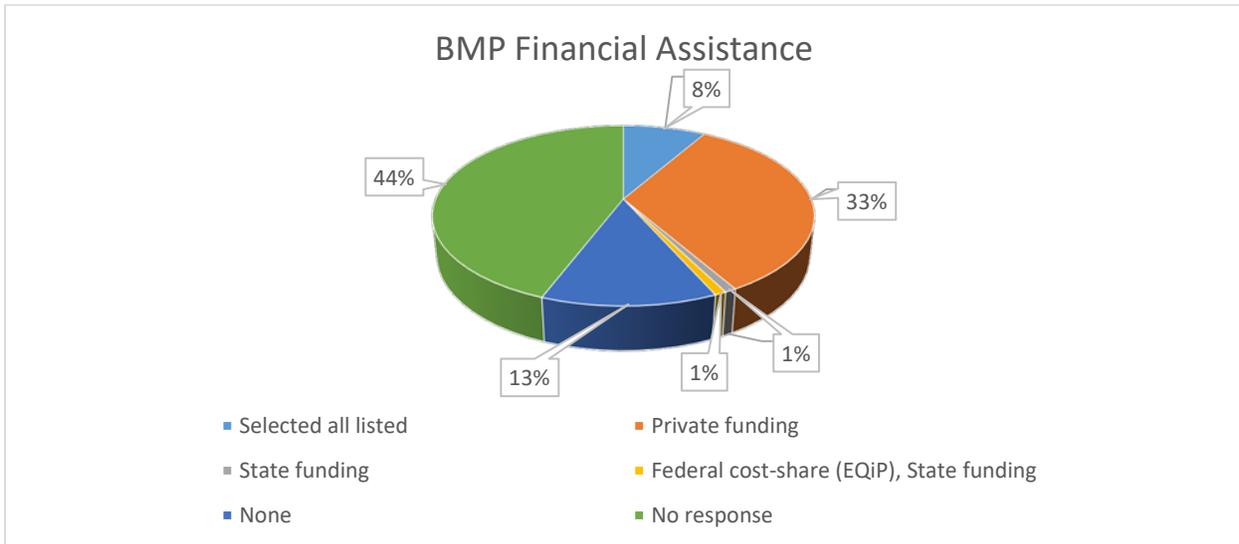
Seventy-seven percent of the following information was gathered from face-to-face farmer interviews with 23 percent gleaned from the returned surveys:

1. “Are you concerned about the amount of farmland being lost to development in Cumberland County?” 97% stated the loss of farmland is a concern.
2. “Cumberland County is the fastest growing county in the state. Which type development of development concerns you the most?” The respondents had the choice of the following: residential, commercial, industrial and other. For reporting purposes Lancaster Farmland Trust grouped responses into those categories if a different response was provided (i.e. warehouses). 5% of respondents selected all categories, 8% chose residential, 10% indicated a combination of residential and commercial, 71% selected commercial with some specifically referencing warehouses, 5% indicated industrial, and 1% provided no response.
3. “Are you familiar with farmland preservation?” 63% of respondents indicated they are familiar with farmland preservation. 4% provided no response.
4. “Do you support the preservation of farmland in Cumberland County?” 82% support the preservation of farmland in the county. 6% provided no response.
5. “Have you ever considered preserving your farm with the Cumberland County Agricultural Land Preservation Board?” 67% indicated they have NOT considered preservation with the county. 6% provided no response.
6. “Would you have concerns about participating in a government program to preserve your farm?” 69% provided an affirmative response with 63% indicating this is due to government funding. 10% provided no response.
7. “If a private, non-profit farmland preservation option, like Lancaster Farmland Trust, would be available in Cumberland County would you be more willing to preserve your farm?” 58% of farmers indicated they would be “very likely” or “likely” to preserve their farm. 2% had no opinion and 20% provided no response.



8. “Are you aware that many miles of streams in Cumberland County are not clean due to large amounts of nutrients (i.e. nitrogen/phosphorus) and sediment?” 83% are aware of water quality impairment. 7% provided no response.

9. "Which land use do you think is the primary cause of this?" 25% believe all land uses (agriculture, residential, commercial/industrial) are the cause of the impairment, 16% stated the cause is only residential, 11% indicated the cause is only commercial/industrial, 18% believe it is a combination of residential and commercial/industrial uses, and 11% indicated agriculture is leading cause of water quality impairment. 4% of farmers believe the impairment is a combination of agriculture and residential or a combination of agriculture and commercial/industrial. 15% did not respond to the question.
10. "Do you have an Ag Erosion and Sedimentation control plan or Conservation Plan?" 47% affirmed having a plan. 23% did not respond to the question.
11. "Do you have a Manure Management Plan or Nutrient Management Plan?" 71% indicated having a plan. 7% provided no response.
12. "If you do not have the required plans would you be interested in having those plans developed?" 47% expressed interest. 23% provided no response.
13. "Are there best management practices (i.e. cover cropping, manure storage, grass waterways, stream buffers, streambank fencing, concerting of barnyards, etc.) that you would like to implement on your farm?" 68% did NOT indicate an interest. 14% did not respond.
14. "If you are interested in installing best management practices on your farm, what sources of funding assistance would you be willing to accept?" 8% selected all funding sources (private, federal cost-share (EQIP), and state), 33% are only willing to accept private funding, 2% only selected government funding options, 13% want no financial assistance, and 44% did not respond to the question.



Task 5 - Explore a variety of private funding mechanisms for a possible program expansion.

Utilizing information provided by Guidestar, the IRS 990 forms of Cumberland County non-profit organizations were reviewed. The annual reports of select non-profits were also reviewed to provide an overview of philanthropic activity in the county.

Corporate / business

The top 20 employers in the county were researched to determine their corporate giving initiatives and to gain information about how to access support. A list of the employers along with a summary of their charitable giving is attached as Appendix 6.

Agribusiness in Cumberland County is concentrated primarily in food processing and production (meat processing, dairy processing and manufacturing, commercial baking) with some smaller, local ag businesses that service local farmers such as feed mills, equipment dealers, and farm supply stores. These agricultural related businesses have a direct connection to farmland preservation and would be potential sources of funding.

Interviews with executives from the West Shore Chamber, Carlisle Chamber and Shippensburg Chamber focused on small businesses, their philanthropic activities and level of support for farmland preservation initiatives. The interviews with Chamber executives provided the following insight:

- There was mixed response from Chamber executives about whether or not there was concern about the pace and type of development among the general public. All indicated that recent development presented challenges but two of the three were unsure about whether the public was concerned. The third felt that the public was becoming increasingly worried about the type of development and the loss of farmland as indicated by the Cumberland Valley School District eminent domain issue.
- The interviewees indicated that they believed the business community is generally supportive of the county's efforts to preserve farmland but were unsure as to the extent the business community was aware of or understood the program.
- All Chamber executives indicated that their members were philanthropic and supportive of local non-profit organizations both financially and as volunteers.
- Two interviewees cited large corporations as being less supportive of local non-profit initiatives than local businesses due to the fact that they are not headquartered in the county and had facilities in many locations.
- Indicated they had few or no members representing agribusiness so were unsure how supportive that sector would be of a new farmland preservation initiative.

Individuals

The county has very few non-profits organizations that have an environmental mission. Those that were identified, raise very little from individual donors.

The IRS 990 forms were reviewed for the three environmental organizations identified as having their primary location in Cumberland County. The three organizations had combined revenue of \$700,000 in 2015. The majority of the revenue to these organizations came from grants. For example, according to the annual report of one local conservation organization, of the \$223,000 raised, 39% or \$87,000, was

from individual donors. By comparison, the two largest conservation organizations in Lancaster County had a combined income of \$5.5 million in 2015.

While very little individual support is currently raised for environmental causes in the county, it is assumed that, given the extent and type of development occurring in Cumberland County, there is a “pent up” concern among the public that could translate into support for land conservation. Tapping this concern will be critical to public support and fundraising.

Foundations

Community Foundations:

Cumberland County does not have a county-wide “community foundation”. Several regional foundations including the Mechanicsburg Area Foundation, the Camp Hill Foundation, and the Greater Harrisburg Foundation are administered by the Foundation for Enhancing Communities.

The Foundation for Enhancing Communities was contacted and Jennifer Doyle, Vice President of Development and Community Investment, was interviewed. During the meeting, the project was described and various funding mechanisms were explored. It was determined that grants from the Greater Harrisburg Foundation’s Upstream initiative might be a source for funding water quality improvement projects. The maximum grant available through the Upstream initiative is \$10,000.

National Foundations:

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) administers two grant programs that fund projects to improve water quality. The Innovative Nutrient and Sediment Reduction Grant Program provides grants of \$750,000 to \$1,000,000 to collaborative partnerships for “regional-scale projects” that focus on water quality restoration and protection. Funding for NFWF grants is provided by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Altria Group, the USDA’s Natural Resources Conservation Service and Forest Service, CSX, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

The Small Watersheds Grants Program awards grants of \$20,000 to \$200,000 for projects that promote on-the-ground community-based efforts to protect and restore the diverse natural resources of the bay and its tributary rivers and streams.

These grant opportunities are available to assist farmers implement best management practices on their farms. Both would require either a government agency or a qualified non-profit entity to apply for and administer the grant. The Innovative Nutrient and Sediment Reduction grant would require multiple agencies / organizations to partner on what NFWF considers “regional” projects.

Private Foundations:

One significant private foundation headquartered in Carlisle was identified. This foundation distributed over \$725,000 in grants to local organizations in 2015 (most recent information available) with the

largest gift being \$75,000. None of the grants were to environmental organizations, however, there did not appear to be a prohibition on funding such initiatives.

It is likely that other small private family foundations exist in the county and could be explored for potential funding.

United Way:

Cumberland County is serviced by three United Way organizations - Carlisle Cumberland United Way, United Way of the Shippensburg Area, and United Way of the Capital Region. None of the United Way organizations fund environmental organizations or initiatives.

State and Federal sources

Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) - The Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP) administered by NRCS provides financial assistance to state and local governments and non-governmental organizations to preserve agricultural lands. In fiscal year 2018, NRCS made \$250 million available for the program. The recently passed farm bill reduces the financial obligation for participating organizations making it easier for non-profit organizations to access funding for projects since less match funding is required. The program is more restrictive, which makes it less attractive to many landowners but it is an option for select farms. The county has utilized NRCS funding to preserve 22 farms.

DEP/ Growing Greener – Growing Greener grants through the Department of Environmental Protection are available to local governments, governmental agencies, authorities and non-profit organizations for the purpose of improving water quality in local waterways. Growing Greener grants provide financial assistance for watershed restoration and protection projects such as stormwater management, riparian buffers, streambank fencing and restoration, and agricultural best management practices. The grants are available for projects on private land but require a governmental entity or qualified non-profit organization to apply for, administer and manage the grant.

Commonwealth Financing Authority (CFA) – Act 13, which established the Marcellus Legacy Fund, allocates money annually to the CFA for the Watershed Restoration and Protection Program (WRPP). The grants are administered through the Department of Community and Economic Development and are available to municipalities, authorized non-profit organizations, institutions of higher learning and for-profit businesses to implement watershed restoration projects. The maximum grant is \$300,000 and requires at least a 15% match. The grants are available for work done on private land but require an authorized entity to apply for, administer and manage the projects.

State preservation funding - While the state has grant programs available to non-profits for the purpose of implementing water quality projects, there are no current state funding sources available to non-profit organizations to preserve farmland. Lancaster Farmland Trust has been working with state legislators to introduce a bill that would direct \$2.5 million of Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture farmland preservation funding to non-profit land trusts for the purchase of conservation easements. Representative Keith Greiner (District 43) introduced the legislation (HB 574) on February 28, 2019,

which is currently awaiting consideration by the House Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee. If passed, the funding would provide state funding to support a private farmland preservation effort in Cumberland County.

Task 6 - Based on results of workshops, focus groups and farmers meetings, develop a list of needs, challenges, obstacles and opportunities to implementing a private land protection and stewardship program as a complement to the government programs already in existence in Cumberland County.

Farmland Preservation

The intensive interaction with the agricultural community demonstrated a desire on the community's part, especially the Plain Sect or those who do not qualify or rank low on the county's waiting list, to have a complimentary private, non-profit farmland preservation option. Farmers indicated concerns with the lack of flexibility with the county program, and if a complimentary option that provided greater flexibility regarding the number of dwelling rights and size of subdivisions that the program could be successful. Farmers clearly indicated the program would have to accommodate the unique needs of the community – such as one-room schoolhouses and religious establishments (i.e. churches).

The need for greater flexibility in easements is further compounded by the current volatility in the agricultural economy. Farmers are exploring means of diversifying their operations, establishing value added products or alternative means of revenue streams to supplement the traditional income sources available from farming operations.

The concept of a "government handout" or voluntarily participating in a government funded program is a primary concern of the Plain Sect community. Alternative funding sources, or as experienced in Lancaster County, a funding strategy that provides separation between the funding source and the landowner can be successful in the Plain Sect community. It has been the Trust's experience the actual funding source may not necessarily be the greatest cause of concern. Farmer concerns are usually rooted to what entity holds the easement, who has access to the property and the publicity associated with approvals of farms preserved via county programs. Privacy and anonymity is central to securing participation of the Plain Sect community.

The minimum criteria for applications to the county program are a barrier for some farmers. The enrollment in an agricultural security area of 500 acres or more, minimum acreage requirement and emphasis on soil quality in the ranking system appears to be excluded a significant portion of farmers who may be interested in farmland preservation. It is possible if an alternative option was available the county may experience more farmland preservation in regions that currently have little preservation activity. While these farms may not be the highest quality or most productive, they are still considerable assets to the county, the communities where they are located and the local agricultural economy.

Outreach to the farming community resulted in follow up conversations with a few landowners who immediately expressed an interest in preserving their farms should an alternative program be established.

Water Quality

While the vast majority of farmers understand the waterways in Cumberland County are impaired the community is confused, or is unwilling to acknowledge, the source of the impairments. That said, some farmers appear to want to take action by their desire to have Ag E&S and Manure/Nutrient Management Plans developed. A robust education and outreach campaign to inform the agricultural community of the impacts of agricultural operations on local waterways, and the programs available to mitigate these impacts, may result in more farmers willing to have plans developed and best management practices implemented. As noted above, a funding source separated from government agencies would be beneficial for plan development, and subsequently, a similar funding stream for best management practice implementation.

CONCLUSIONS

Preservation

Over the past year, Lancaster Farmland Trust has had the opportunity to interact with a variety of stakeholders in the agricultural community in Cumberland County both directly through individual meetings, focus groups, workshops, and field days and indirectly through surveys and questionnaires. Those interactions have provided valuable information about whether or not a private, non-profit farmland preservation option that complemented the existing county program would be accepted and utilized.

The county's preservation program is well known in the agricultural community. In addition, there is wide spread support for using county funds to preserve productive farmland that supports agriculture. That support provides a strong foundation on which a private program could be built.

Farmers indicated interest in the greater flexibility in easement restrictions that a private program could offer. This was especially true among the Plain Sect community. Plain Sect farmers are suspicious of government programs and generally unwilling to accept public funding. This includes concerns over a governmental entity holding and having the authority to enforce an easement.

Many of the farmers interviewed and surveyed were from areas of the county that do not rank well in the county program due to soil quality. Given the interest in preservation expressed by farmers in this area, a private option would help to expand the program into areas unlikely to ever be reached by the county program. This would not only increase the number of acres permanently protected, it would provide a preservation option for good, productive farms.

While the percentage of farmers who have considered preservation is relatively low, the number who would consider a private option was significant. This would indicate that a private initiative would be successful and would increase the rate of preservation and assist the county in achieving its goals for farmland preservation.

Water quality

Farmers support for the implementation of best management practices on their farms was less prevalent than their support of a complementary preservation program.

There was a marked difference in the farmers' level of knowledge of the causes of pollution in local streams and creeks. Some farmers understand that agriculture is the major contributor to nutrient and sediment loading, but most are unwilling to accept or acknowledge that finding. Some believe that development of various types is the primary contributor to impairment. Still others are simply uninformed. This disparity in knowledge and understanding contributes to the failure to implement the practices necessary to improve water quality.

The percentage of farms that have Ag E&S and Manure/Nutrient Management Plans is consistent with other agricultural counties. A significant number of producers who do not have plans expressed interest in having plans developed. Among those farms with plans, many have not been implemented. There appears to be a gap between understanding the need to have a plan and the more important implementation. This is not unique to Cumberland County.

The primary reason for the failure to implement conservation plans is financial. Farmers either lack awareness of government cost share programs or refuse to participate. Nearly half of survey respondents indicated there was not a funding source they were willing to accept. Resources should be focused on removing this knowledge gap so farmers are empowered to make informed decisions regarding the funding available to assist with implementation.

Addressing the confusion and lack of understanding within the agricultural community regarding the water quality impairments could result in positive change. This can be achieved through a strategic and intentional outreach and education campaign that includes information about the sources of pollutant loading, the relationship between planning and implementation, and information on available funding sources.

Community support

The principal sources of funding for private farmland preservation in Pennsylvania are individuals, businesses, and foundations. Each of these was researched to determine the feasibility of funding a private preservation initiative in Cumberland County. Additionally, interviews were conducted with individuals who have knowledge of the community and charitable giving.

Support for charitable activities requires that potential supporters have knowledge of the mission, have an emotional attachment to the mission, have the resources necessary to provide support and have an inclination to share those resources for a cause in which they believe. Almost all communities have sufficient resources to make a non-profit program viable. However, tapping those resources requires a tremendous commitment of time and money.

Advantages:

- Cumberland County has certain characteristics that would indicate the ability to support a private farmland preservation program. The county's median household income of \$62,640 exceeds both the national and state averages. This indicates a population that likely has sufficient disposable income to provide financial support.
- Cumberland County has had a farmland preservation program for 25 years. While it is much better known in the agricultural community than the general public, the established program would provide a good foundation for a private initiative.
- A growing Plain Sect community provides a ready constituency. Plain Sect farmers indicated some interest in preserving with a private organization when they were interviewed. With an effective outreach strategy, it is likely some would move forward.
- Increasing development and rapid growth creates an "urgency" to protect land before it's too late. There was mixed response from Chamber executives about whether or not there was concern about development, however, it is assumed that, given the extent and type of development occurring in Cumberland County, there is a "pent up" concern about the impact development is having. Tapping this will be critical to public support and fundraising.
- The Cumberland Valley School District's attempt to take preserved land by eminent domain lit a spark in the community. People – at least within that community – were vocal in demonstrating their concern about the loss of a protected farm. The incident provided the community with valuable information about preservation. This could be helpful in establishing a private program.

Challenges:

- Funding for land conservation is scarce and projects are expensive. This is true everywhere. The cost to complete one preservation project can top \$100,000 even with a bargain sale transaction. Cobbling together sufficient capital for an effective program will be challenging. While contributions from individuals and businesses will be important, it will take larger grants from foundations and governmental entities to achieve success in a timely manner.
- There is no existing private farmland preservation program. The Central Pennsylvania Conservancy focuses on the protection of natural lands and did not, during the interview, indicate an interest in expanding their work to include farmland preservation.
- There is currently little demonstrated record of support for conservation organizations. There are very few organizations with an environmental mission and those that do have very small budgets with just a small percentage raised from donations. As an example, the three conservation organizations that were reviewed had combined revenue of \$700,000 in 2015. In Lancaster County, the two largest conservation organizations had a combined income of \$5.5 million in 2015. This may indicate that there is a lot of potential that can be tapped but it may also indicate that fundraising will be a challenge.
- The agricultural infrastructure is relatively small in the county. Agricultural businesses are a good source of funding for farmland preservation because of the connection between the protection of farmland and their future business. While there are agricultural businesses in the county, the number is relatively small. This limits one likely source of support. In discussions

with the Chamber execs, they noted that they have very few members from farm related businesses.

- Many of the larger businesses are not local. Gaining substantial support from a global company with headquarters in some other part of the country is unlikely.

Recommendations

- ✓ Encourage government agencies and private partners such as watershed associations to conduct a grant-funded education and outreach campaign to increase farmers' knowledge of how they can help improve water quality in local waterways. Funding for such an initiative may be available from NFWF and/or the Foundation for Enhancing Communities "Upstream" grant program.
- ✓ Use the county's "bully-pulpit" to educate the public and, in particular, the agricultural community on the importance of cleaning up local waterways and ways to do it.
- ✓ Promote farmland preservation. More marketing of farmland preservation by elected and appointed officials beyond the agricultural community needs to be done. Utilize earned media to promote the county's efforts to protect farmland and increase the general public's knowledge of farmland preservation. Develop the media's interest in and understanding of farmland preservation. Increasing awareness of the importance of farmland preservation will help a private organization raise money in the community.
- ✓ Don't reinvent the wheel. There are a number of land trusts in central Pennsylvania that might be willing partners in the county's efforts to preserve more farmland. While even an existing organization will need considerable time and resources to get started, having knowledge and experience in land conservation will expedite the process.
- ✓ Dedicate seed funding through a grant or matching grant to an existing conservation organization. This will jumpstart a private effort and provide an incentive for donors to give.
- ✓ Consider establishing a "preservation partnership" fund to incentivize municipalities to get involved in land protection along the lines of the model developed in Chester County. Municipalities would receive funding to match what they contribute to farmland preservation projects in their townships. Adding a component that included private land trusts would split funding commitments between three partners. A program like this would enable the county to quickly increase the acres protected with a relatively small investment since there would be two other funding partners.

Summary

Cumberland County is to be commended for its commitment to preserving its rich, productive farmland and protecting its critical water resources. As the fastest growing county in Pennsylvania, protecting natural resources while accommodating the growth needed to sustain the community economically will be a challenge. It is in this context that the county commissioners asked Lancaster Farmland Trust to undertake a project to determine options available to accomplish both goals of preserving land and protecting resources.

Cumberland County has had a farmland preservation program for 25 years. The interviews and surveys conducted indicate that farmers are generally aware of the program and understand how it works. The interviews and surveys further indicate that there are farmers interested in preserving their land who either do not want to work through the county Agricultural Land Preservation Board or whose farms do not rank highly enough to participate in the county program. The number appears to be a sufficient to make it feasible for a private land trust to establish a presence in the county that would complement the existing county program.

The critical issues impacting the establishment of a farmland preservation program by a private organization are the availability of resources necessary to be effective and the time required to get a program up and running. While raising the funds required to begin preserving farms will be a challenge for either a newly formed organization or an existing organization, establishing a new organization will take significantly longer than expanding the program area of an existing organization. Establishing a new organization, including the procedures necessary to be recognized as a 501(c)(3) by the IRS, could take two to three years before any fundraising could be accomplished.

While requiring less time up front, the expansion of a program area by an existing land trust will still require sufficient time for marketing, donor development, and program implementation. There are a few factors which would expedite the process and shorten the start-up period:

- ✓ Assistance announcing and marketing the “start-up” by elected and appointed officials. This could include press releases, a press event, an announcement event to include community leaders, an event for farmers, etc.
- ✓ The awarding of “seed” funding. An initial grant, or matching grant, to jump start the initiative. If the initial funding requires a match, the start-up period will be longer to accommodate the time required to raise the matching funds.
- ✓ Assistance from the county in identifying “ready to go” projects. This could be projects that do not score high enough to be funded by the county program or farms that have not applied but are known to be interested in preservation.
- ✓ Support and advocacy for HB 574 which would provide state funding to land trusts. In combination with seed funding from the county, this funding would allow a private land trust to start preservation projects within six months with completion of the first project within a year. Early success would be helpful in fundraising which could commence during this time.

APPENDIX 1



Cumberland County Municipal Meeting
April 18, 2018
AGENDA

- 11:00 Welcome
 County Commissioners
- 11:05 Farmland Preservation and the County Comprehensive Plan
 Kirk Stoner - Director, Cumberland County Planning Department
- 11:15 Introduction to Lancaster Farmland Trust
 Karen Martynick - Executive Director, Lancaster Farmland Trust
- 11:25 Origins and overview of Cumberland County project
 Jeff Swinehart – Deputy Director, Lancaster Farmland Trust
- 11:40 Lunch break / Networking
- 12:00 Group Discussion
- 12:50 Wrap-up / Next Steps

Jeff Swinehart

From: Jeff Swinehart
Sent: Monday, May 14, 2018 4:45 PM
To: 'cguarino@sstwp.org'; 'laura@kbrownfox.net'; 'roadforman@southamptontwp.com'; 'jswope@southamptontwp.com'; 'southamptontwp@pa.net'; 'jbennett@sstwp.org'; 'mbusler@sstwp.org'; 'lhinkle@nntwp.net'; 'mikegutshall@comcast.net'; 'cadams@smiddleton.com'; 'Shireen@visitcumberlandvalley.com'; 'zoning@dickinsontownship.org'; 'Manager@dickinsontownship.org'; 'info@hopewelltownshipcc.com'; 'gallemanzoht@pa.net'
Cc: Williams, Stephanie; 'Stoner, Kirk'; Karen Martynick
Subject: Municipal farmland preservation focus group (NFWF grant)
Attachments: Mail in questionnaire.docx

Dear Municipal Representatives,

Thank you for attending the focus group held on April 18th at the North Newton Township Municipal Building. Lancaster Farmland Trust and Cumberland County representatives felt the discussion was very informative and productive.

Many of you indicated having contacts in the Plain Sect community within your specific geography. If you have a contact and are willing to help coordinate a meeting with that person/persons please contact me via at this email address or by the phone numbers below. We would like to begin the process of engaging with the community to assess their level of interest in a private farmland preservation option.

A questionnaire was distributed at the meeting. If you have additional thoughts/input that would be helpful to this project, please mail or email the questionnaire to me at your convenience. A copy of the questionnaire is attached.

Also, any comments, questions, concerns and feedback can be directed to my email.

Thank you again for your participation and insight!

Jeffery E. Swinehart
Deputy Director

Lancaster Farmland Trust
125 Lancaster Avenue
Strasburg, PA 17579
Phone: (717) 687-8484
Direct Dial: (717) 288-2822
Fax: (717) 687-9705
Email: jswinehart@lancasterfarmlandtrust.org



LANCASTER FARMLAND TRUST
Cumberland County Municipal Meeting
April 18, 2018

FOLLOW UP QUESTIONNAIRE

Thank you for attending the meeting of municipal officials hosted by Cumberland County and Lancaster Farmland Trust. We realize that the time was limited and that there is much more information to be gathered to make this project a success. Therefore, we have provided a list of questions below to give you an opportunity to share any information you think would be helpful. Please take a few minutes to complete and return in the postage paid, addressed envelope. We are looking forward to working with you to make this project a great success!

Questions:

1. What are your thoughts about Lancaster Farmland Trust's project to assess the interest of Plain Sect farmers in farmland preservation?

2. Do you think the project will be helpful to your municipality?

3. Would your township be interested in hosting a meeting with local farmers (especially Plain Sect)?

4. Would your township be interested in having Lancaster Farmland Trust make a presentation to your Board of Supervisors? Planning Commission? Others?

5. What do you think is the key to making this project a success?

6. Are there specific community leaders that you think should be involved in this project? If so, please list below.

7. When was the last time your township's comprehensive plan was updated?

8. Does your township consider farmland preservation as a tool to accomplish the goals of the comprehensive plan?

9. Are there concerns about water quality in streams and creeks in your township?

10. Are there concerns about source water impairment in your township?

11. If yes, to what extent do you believe water quality impairment (either surface or source water) is due to agricultural operations?

12. Does your township have ordinances or policies that encourage or require farmers to have conservation plans?

Anything else? We would appreciate any thoughts or information you would like to share that we have not covered.

Thank you for taking the time to answer the questionnaire. Please provide your name and contact information below.

NAME: _____ E-MAIL ADDRESS: _____

TELEPHONE: _____ MUNICIPALITY: _____

MUNICIPAL FOCUS GROUP ATTENDEES

Chris Guarino, Silver Spring Township

Laura Brown, Silver Spring Township

Jim Bennett, Silver Spring Township

McKenzie Busler, Silver Spring Township

Scott Mack, Southampton Township

Jerry Swope, Southampton Township

Butch O'Donnell, Southampton Township

Gary Martin, Penn Township

Larry Hinkle, North Newton Township

Mike Gutshall, North Newton Township

Cory Adams, South Middleton Township

Shireen Farr, Cumberland Area Economic Development Corporation

Glenn Kelso, Jr., Dickinson Township

Larry Barrick, Jr., Dickinson Township

Danny Forrester, Hopewell Township

Verne Wadel, Hopewell Township

Greg Alleman, Hopewell Township

Commissioner Vince DiFilippo, Cumberland County

Commissioner Jim Hertzler, Cumberland County

Kirk Stoner, Cumberland County Planning Department

Melissa Piper Nelson, Cumberland County Agricultural Land Preservation Board

APPENDIX 2



Cumberland County Ag Stakeholders Meeting

June 18, 2018

AGENDA

- 1:00 Welcome and Introductions
- 1:05 Background information
Stephanie Williams - Planning Manager,
Farmland, Greenway and Open Space Programs
- 1:15 Introduction to Lancaster Farmland Trust
Karen Martynick - Executive Director, Lancaster Farmland Trust
- 1:30 Overview of Cumberland County project
Jeff Swinehart – Deputy Director, Lancaster Farmland Trust
- 1:45 Group Discussion
- 2:45 Wrap-up / Next Steps

LANCASTER FARMLAND TRUST
Cumberland County Ag Stakeholders Meeting
June 18, 2018
QUESTIONS

Our goal is to learn from you and your experiences and work with the Plain Sect Community. We have a list of questions but we want this to be an open and candid dialogue so please feel free to offer any insight or ideas you may have regardless of whether they are directly related to our questions.

1. Now that you have gotten an overview of the project, what are your thoughts about our efforts to assess Plain Sect farmers' interest in farmland preservation?

2. Do you think the project will help the county achieve its goals for farmland preservation?

3. To what extent do you or your organization work with Plain Sect farmers?

4. From your experience, do you think the Plain Sect community will be interested in preservation with a private organization?

5. What do you think is the key to making this project a success?

6. To what extent do you believe water quality impairment (either surface or source water) is due to agricultural operations?

7. From your experience, would you say Plain Sect farmers understand the connection between agriculture and water quality?

8. From your experience, are Plain Sect farmers aware of their regulatory requirements related to the Chesapeake Bay?

9. Does your organization do specific outreach to Plain Sect farmers? If so, how?

10. Are there specific community leaders or other organizations that you think should be involved in this project? Would you be willing to make their names available to us or make a connection to them for us?

ATTENDEE LIST

Carl Goshorn, Cumberland County Conservation District

Brad Seely, Cumberland County Conservation District

Samantha Robison, Penn State Extension

Dianna Robison, NRCS

Susan Richards, Capital RC&D

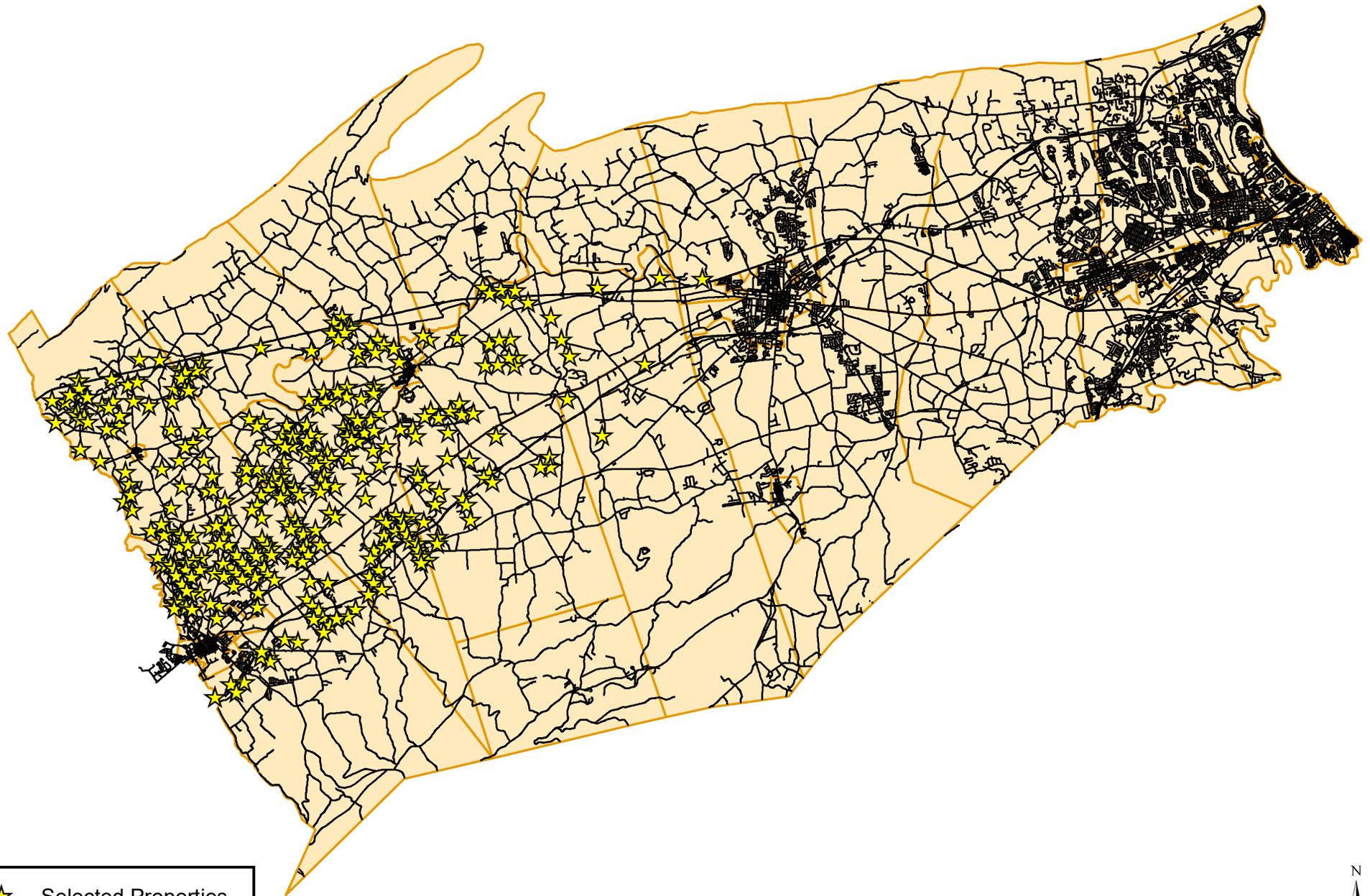
Bill Chain, Chesapeake Bay Foundation

Stephanie Williams, Cumberland County Agricultural Land Preservation Board

Melissa Piper Nelson, Cumberland County Agricultural Land Preservation Board

APPENDIX 3

Landowner Outreach



- ★ Selected Properties
- Roads
- ▭ Municipal Boundaries



APPENDIX 4

Farmland Preservation & Water Quality, Better Together

A unique mix of rural and urban landscapes converge in beautiful Cumberland County, seated in the heart of south-central Pennsylvania. The County's growing popularity among businesses and residents has locked-in Cumberland County's status as Pennsylvania's fastest-growing county. This increase in population makes now a prime time to take steps to ensure Cumberland County residents always have access to safe, healthy drinking water, natural areas for recreational use, and an abundant supply of fresh food from local farms.

The preservation and stewardship of critical farmland is key to maintaining and enhancing Cumberland County's quality of life. Through a grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, Cumberland County is exploring a long-term **voluntary** farmland preservation and water quality improvement strategy. Read on to learn how water quality and farmland preservation are linked.

44

percent of the County in farmland

Agriculture thrives in Cumberland County, bringing in \$195 million in 2012. Preserving Cumberland County's farmland is imperative to the County's economic and industrial well-being.

50% of the U.S. population within a 10-hour drive

250,066

county population based on July 1, 2017 estimates from PA State Data Center

There are many reasons to love living in Cumberland County. Farmland preservation ensures County residents and others can enjoy the beautiful scenery and an abundant supply of fresh foods throughout the year.

6.2% population increase since 2010

19,000

acres of farmland preserved by the County Agricultural Land Preservation Board since 1989

A substantial 42% of the county's 2035 goal of 45,000 acres. However, not all farms are a good fit for the current state funding programs, meaning some farm families need another option to preserve their land.

160+ families have already preserved their farms

*Plan,
Preserve,
Protect*

Through a partnership with **Lancaster Farmland Trust**, Cumberland County is poised to become a leader in assisting Pennsylvania to reach its commitment to address water quality through farmland preservation efforts. This special project will improve water quality in Lower Susquehanna-Swatara, Lower Susquehanna, Conococheague-Opequon and Chesapeake Bay Watersheds.

What to Expect...

- Focus groups and individual meeting with farmers, municipal officials, and business leaders
- Information gathered related to barriers and challenges to implementing ag BMPs and farmland preservation
- Establishment of criteria to evaluate farms for preservation

What You Can Do...

- Participate in a voluntary focus group
- Contact the Trust to request a personal interview
- Communicate your individual barriers to implementing voluntary BMPs for improved water quality
- Share ideas how you think agriculture in the county will be sustainable
- Share your opinions of voluntary farmland preservation and water quality improvement efforts



Information for Farmers

Lancaster Farmland Trust is a private, nonprofit organization dedicated to the preservation and stewardship of the beautiful, productive farmland of Lancaster County and surrounding areas. Since its inception in 1988, the Trust has leveraged public and private funds to ambitiously preserve nearly 500 farms covering close to 30,000 acres. The Trust is also committed to helping farmers identify, plan, design, and install necessary conservation practices to improve the economic and environmental performance of their farms.



For More Information:

Lancaster Farmland Trust

125 Lancaster Ave., Strasburg, PA 17975
p | 717-687-8484 | www.lancasterfarmlandtrust.org

Jeff Swinehart, jswinehart@lancasterfarmlandtrust.org

Cumberland County Agricultural Land Preservation Board

310 Allen Road, Suite 101, Carlisle, PA 17013
p | 717-240-5383 | www.ccpa.net/farmland

Stephanie Williams, sjwilliams@ccpa.net

Give Away Survey

GIVE AWAY!

**Stihl
KM 91R
Powerhead
with trimmer.**

**\$400.00
value.**



Give Away Disclosure: The drawing is only eligible for owners of 10+ acres farmland in Cumberland County. The information will only be use by Lancaster Farmland Trust and will not be shared or distributed to any third party – all information will be kept private and confidential. Any information made public will only be in aggregate form – individual landowners/farms will not be referenced or identified.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____ Township: _____

Farm size (acreage): _____

Primary farm operation:

Dairy Poultry Beef Swine
 Equine Produce Row crops Other: _____

Do you have (check all that apply):

Ag E&S Plan/Conservation Plan?
 Manure Management Plan/Nutrient Management Plan?

Are the plans current? Yes _____ No _____ Unknown _____

Farmland Preservation:

1. Are you concerned about the amount of farmland being lost to development in Cumberland County?
Yes _____ No _____

2. Cumberland County is the fastest growing county in the state. Which type of development concerns you the most? (check one)
Residential _____ Commercial _____ Industrial _____ Other: _____

3. Are you familiar with farmland preservation?
Yes _____ No _____

4. Do you support the preservation of farmland in Cumberland County?
Yes _____ No _____

5. Have you ever considered preserving your farm with the Cumberland County Agricultural Land Preservation Board?
Yes _____ No _____

Why or why not? _____

OVER→

6. Would you have concerns about participating in a government program to preserve your farm?

Yes _____ No _____

7. Is that concern due to use of public (taxpayer) money?

Yes _____ No _____

Lancaster Farmland Trust is a private, non-profit organization preserving farmland in Pennsylvania. As a private organization, Lancaster Farmland Trust can tailor restrictions of the preservation agreement based on input of current landowner and long-term plans for the farm, which results in more flexibility regarding the number of future dwellings, number of subdivisions, on-farm businesses and community needs (i.e. schoolhouses). Lancaster Farmland Trust's funds are raised primarily through private sources, such as individual donors, businesses and private foundations.

8. If a private non-profit farmland preservation option, like Lancaster Farmland Trust, would be available in Cumberland County would you be more willing to preserve your farm?

Very likely _____ Likely _____ Unlikely _____ Very unlikely _____ No opinion _____

Local Water Quality:

9. Are you aware that many miles of streams in Cumberland County are not clean due to large amounts of nutrients (i.e. nitrogen/phosphorus) and sediment?

Yes _____ No _____

10. Which land use do you think is the primary cause of this?

Agriculture _____ Residential _____ Commercial/Industrial _____

11. Are there best management practices (i.e. cover cropping, manure storage, grass waterways, stream buffers, streambank fencing, concreting of barnyards, etc.) that you would like to implement on your farm?

Yes _____ No _____

If yes, which practices would you like to install?

12. If you are interested in installing best management practices on your farm, what sources of funding assistance would you be willing to accept? (check all that apply)

Federal cost-share (EQIP) _____ State funding _____ Private funding _____

13. If you do not have an Ag E&S/Conservation Plan or Manure Management Plan/Nutrient Management Plan on your farm, would you be interested in having those plans developed?

Yes _____ No _____

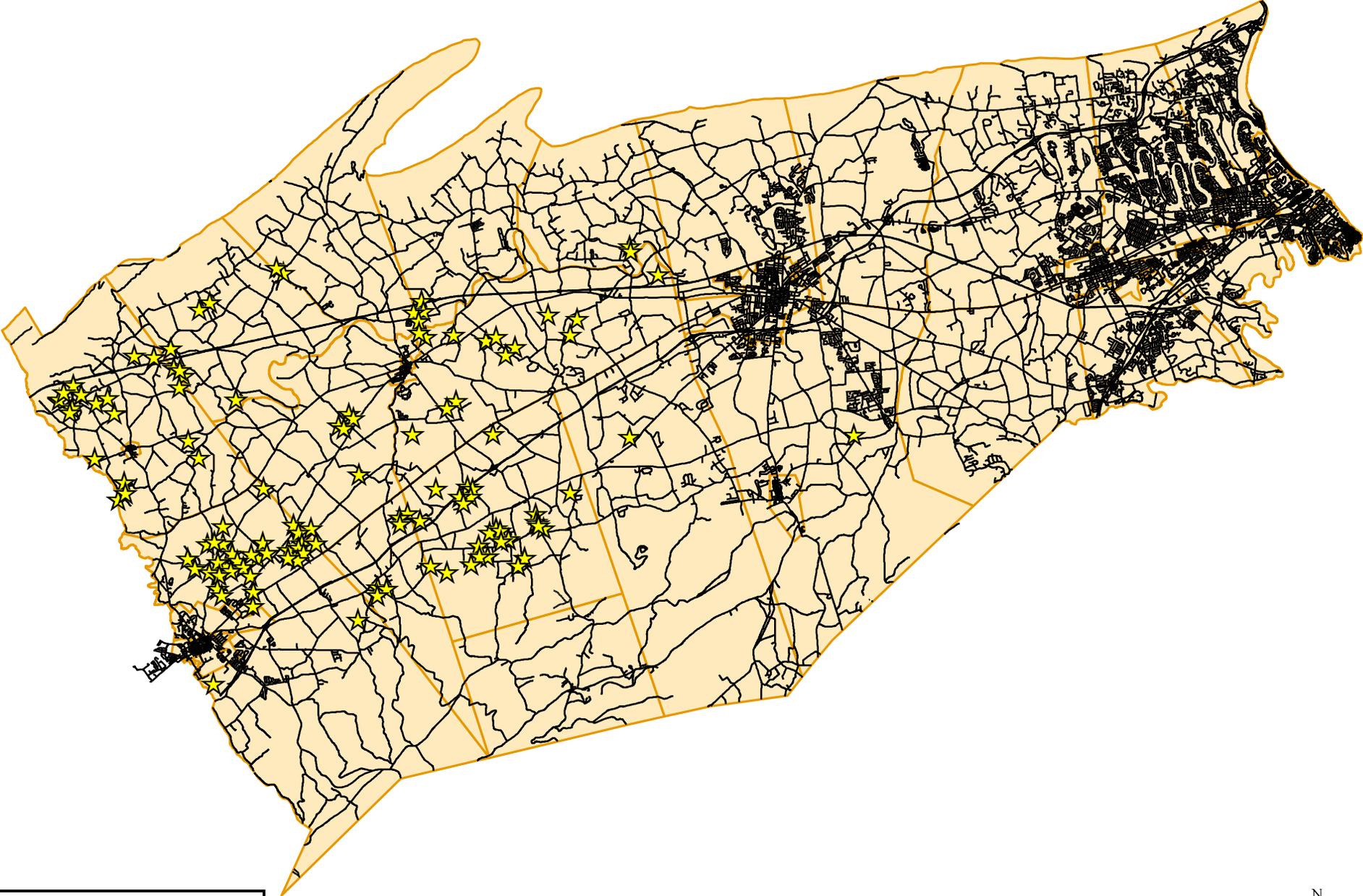
Other Comments:

Contact Information:

Lancaster Farmland Trust
Attn: Jeff Swinehart or Jeb Musser
125 Lancaster Avenue
Strasburg, PA 17579
Phone: (717) 687-8484
Fax: (717) 687-9705
www.lancasterfarmlandtrust.org

APPENDIX 5

Landowner Engagement



- ★ Interview/Survey Response
- Roads
- ▭ Municipal Boundaries

0 2 4 8 12 Miles

A north arrow is located in the bottom right corner, pointing upwards. Below it is a scale bar with markings at 0, 2, 4, 8, and 12 miles.

APPENDIX 6

TOP CUMBERLAND COUNTY EMPLOYERS

Community Involvement

1. Federal Government

2. Giant Foods

Individual stores make small donations primarily for events.

Corporate focus on two areas: improving the lives of children and feeding those in the community.

3. Amazon

Charitable contributions provided through their corporate “Amazon Smile” program. Shoppers can sign up to have .05% of their purchase directed to a specific charity.

4. Pennsylvania State Government

5. Holy Spirit Hospital

Geisinger Health Foundation primarily supports initiatives of their health system.

6. Chewy

Charitable giving directed toward non-profit organizations and shelters that support animal welfare.

7. Select Employment Services

No information available about charitable giving. Select Health Services supports a number of charitable organizations in their service territories almost all health care related. No environmental focus.

8. Highmark

The Highmark Foundation provides grants for initiatives related to chronic disease, family health and service delivery systems.

9. Walmart

Small donations generated by local stores. Larger corporate gifts are made through the Walmart Foundation. One area of focus is “sustainability” include zero waste, renewable energy, and products that sustain resources.

Walmart also has the “Acres for America” program that is administered through the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. The program funds projects that:

- Conserve critical habitats for birds, fish, plants and wildlife;
- Connect existing protected lands to unify wild places and protect migration routes;
- Provide access for people to enjoy the outdoors; and,
- Ensure the future of local economies that depend on forestry, ranching and recreation.

10. Cumberland Valley School District

11. County of Cumberland

12. Dickinson College

13. HGSS – no information available

14. Fry Communications

Funds some local non-profit initiatives. Principally focused on corporate environmental sustainability.

15. Messiah College

16. Exel, Inc. (DHL Transportation)

Primarily global charitable initiatives including GoHelp which provides volunteers for disaster relief in partnership with the United Nations and GoTeach which provides educational opportunities. Some local initiatives primarily volunteer based.

17. The Ames Companies

Annual golf tournament to fund local initiatives. Most support focused on local gardening activities.

18. Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education

19. Rite Aid

Charitable giving through the Rite Aid Foundation primarily focused on health and wellness. Past support to the Children's Miracle Network and the KidCents program.

20. HM Health Solutions

Charitable giving focused primarily on health initiatives with the addition of Volunteers for America and Boy Scouts of America.