

Shenandoah RC&D, Page County Farmers Association, and Valley Conservation Council

present

Learning from Lancaster: Building a Successful Farmland Conservation Program

When: Thursday, October 29th at 7 pm

Who: Jeff Swinehart, Deputy Director of the Lancaster Farmland Trust and
Matt Knepper, Director of the Lancaster County Agricultural Preserve Board

Where: Virginia Cooperative Extension Office, 215 West Main St, Suite C, Stanley

The Shenandoah Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) Council has provided support to bring two farmland conservation experts to the Valley region from Lancaster, Pennsylvania. Lancaster has one of the strongest working lands conservation programs in the country. Matt and Karen will share what they have accomplished with public and private efforts conserving 18% of the zoned agricultural lands in the county.

With nearly 6,000 farms, Lancaster County ranks fourth in the country in number of farms. Dairy is the leading agricultural sector, but farming is diverse with poultry, swine, beef, crop, and vegetable production also contributing to the local economy. The farming families recognize the importance of maintaining lands for agriculture. For every one acre lost to development, two acres were preserved from 1994 to 2001.

About the Lancaster Farmland Trust

Mission: To preserve and steward the beautiful, productive farmland of Lancaster County that reflects our heritage, supports our economy, nurtures our health, and enhances our quality of life.

Lancaster Farmland Trust is a private nonprofit land trust that has helped landowners conserve over 20,000 acres of land in the last 20 years.

About the County of Lancaster Agricultural Preserve Board

Mission: To forever preserve the beautiful farmland and productive soils of Lancaster County and its rich agricultural heritage; and to create a healthy environment for the long-term sustainability of the agricultural economy and farming as a way of life.

Over 62,990 acres of farmland have been preserved with 723 conservation easements.

***Questions? Please contact Valley Conservation Council at 540.886.3541
www.valleyconservation.org***