

LANCASTER COUNTY

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- Funding for farmland and open space preservation – counties are looking for additional funding to preserve more farmland. Our association proposal supports the option for counties to levy a realty transfer tax of up to 1% of revenues to be dedicated solely to farmland and open space preservation.

As a result of Lancaster County's Blue Ribbon Commission to keep Lancaster farming, our Ag Preservation Board is forming a task force to find a dedicated funding stream for farmland preservation to match the State's portion. We believe (which is expedited by the expanding of Aberdeen Proving Ground in Maryland) that Lancaster County has only a short window of time to preserve our nation's #1 non-irrigated soils.

- Landowner Liability – CCAP supports legislation, including HB 13, which would protect landowners from liability for injuries caused by recreational users of their property.
- Budget issues – CCAP supports additional funding for conservation districts, cooperative extension programs, and county fairs. We are particularly disappointed with the funding level proposed in the 07-08 Commonwealth budget for conservation districts, and urge the legislature to restore this level to at least the 06-07 level. Stormwater continues to be a huge issue and could by default fall into conservation district programs. The funding level certainly does not accommodate the huge task.

In addition, we ask the legislature to fulfill, for the first time, 50% cost share for conservation district managers and two technicians. We also support restoring funding for cooperative extension.

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