

Farming—From the Church Farm School to Now

The Church Farm School placed great importance on this land for both practical use as well as character building for its students. Nowadays there is still some leased farming going on that requires a lot of work. Please refrain from interfering in any way with the farmland.

The Church Farm School's land was not merely an investment in its future, but a means to an end. A working farm provided the students with sustenance as well as agricultural know-how. By toiling together, literally from dawn till dusk, the Church Farm School turned the debilitated land into a productive agricultural venture. Reverend Charles Wesley Shreiner, the founder of CFS, has a personal philosophy that called for the boys to use their hands as much as their minds; that adequate training in both spheres would prepare them to meet whatever the challenges the world presented. This proved true, as many alumnae attributed their success in later life to the lessons of hard work and doing a job correctly and thoroughly that they learned while laboring for the Church Farm School.

-Abridged from *Vision and Ability: A History of CFS: The School at Church Farm* by Mary Neighbour

Much goes into the farming that is now performed on the Exton Park site. In order to maintain a cropping system with soil loss below tolerable levels, high residue no-tilled crops such a corn, grain, or hay are added to the rotation of wheat and soybeans over 225 acres. To reduce sheet and rill erosion, transport of sediment, and other waterborne contaminants, contour farming is performed with tillage, planting, and other farming operations. To maintain the desired composition of plant species, control insects, diseases and weeds, as well as to maintain plant vigor, harvests are foraged in a high quality, timely, and economic manner. Additionally, special attention is paid to grassed waterways, nutrient management, and pasture and hay planting. This mindfulness affects aspects like gully erosion, water concentrations, ground water resources, water infiltration, water quality, etc. Clearly, from the time of CFS's ownership of this parcel to the Township's leased farming of today, much care and value is placed on this land. Please respect these agricultural endeavors by keeping pets, children, etc. from setting foot on or otherwise disturbing the farmland.