

## **Regional Resources for Farmland Access**

### **Chester Agricultural Center**

The Center was originally formed by NEFA, in partnership with the Ralph E. Ogden Foundation and Orange County Land Trust. CAC has since become an independent non-profit organization. Land and infrastructure is held in a LLC, and leased long-term and affordably to experienced farmers.

### **Equity Trust – Hudson Valley Farm Affordability Program**

Equity Trust's multi-year initiative, funded by NoVo Foundation, creates and promotes tools to keep farmland active in 15 NYS counties. The program offers technical assistance to farm protection projects, enhancing the conservation and agricultural organizations already working in the Hudson Valley, while also offering funding through grants and loans. To date, 12 farm projects have benefitted from the program.

### **Farmland for a New Generation New York – American Farmland Trust**

Farmland for a New Generation New York is a program coordinated by American Farmland Trust that assists farmers seeking land and landowners wanting to keep their land in farming. The program offers a statewide Resource Center with a website listing farm seekers and land available for farming, as well as training materials and a list of expert advisors. In addition, the program supports a network of Regional Navigators, partner organizations that provide training and customized support for farmers and landowners.

### **Hudson Valley Agribusiness Development Corporation (HVADC)**

#### **Hudson Valley Farmland Finder**

Hudson Valley Farmlink Network is partnership of 17 organizations serving 13 counties, coordinated by American Farmland Trust. The network offers the Hudson Valley Farmland Finder website, training and networking events, and one-to-one assistance for farmers and landowners.

#### **Hudson Valley Young Farmers Coalition – Google Group**

The Hudson Valley chapter of the National Young Farmers Coalition hosts a Google Group for farmers and agricultural service providers to post jobs, apprenticeships, events, advocacy opportunities and more. While more informal, this does serve as a channel for accessing agricultural resources in the region.

Land access is one of the **National Young Farmers Coalition's** top priorities. They serve farmers by publishing resources, and creating tools such as the Finding Farmland Calculator and the Finding Farmland Course. NYFC also works with land conservation groups nationwide to build a network of professionals to conduct research and share best practices.

#### **Land for Good**

Based in New Hampshire, Land for Good works to provide support and guidance to help farmers, landowners and communities navigate land access, tenure and transfer in New England. Their [Farm Seekers Program](#) helps farm seekers acquire farms and farmland. Their [Farm Legacy Program](#) helps transfer farms to the next generation or operator. Their [Working Lands Program](#) increases land stewardship by helping landowners make land available for farming.

#### **Local Farms Fund**

Local Farms Fund is a community impact farmland investment fund. Governed by a Board of Directors, the fund supports early stage farmers with land access by purchasing farmland property, leasing to the farmer with rent going back to the investors, with the eventual goal that the farmer buys the farm, returning the initial funds back to the investor.

#### **Kingston Land Trust (KLT)**

KLT launched a Land Matching Portal in 2019, a free community resource for connecting local residents to arrange shared use of privately or publicly owned under-utilized land.

## **New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets Agricultural and Farmland Protection Program**

A \$14 Million farmland protection initiative announced in December of 2019, the program offers grants of up to \$2 million each for eligible entities (land trusts, municipalities, Soil and Water Districts, farms fitting the program criteria).

### **Northeast Farmers of Color Land Trust (NEFOC)**

NEFOC is in the process of establishing a nonprofit land trust that will acquire land or easements for the purpose of permanent affordability/access for POC farmers. At present, they are fiscally sponsored by Soul Fire Farm Institute, Inc. Their vision is to advance land and food sovereignty in the Northeast through permanent and secure tenure for POC farmers and land stewards.

### **Northeast Farmland Access (NEFA)**

NEFA is a LLC of social investors, farmers and local partners (like conservation land trusts, foundations) aimed at creating long-term land access to farmland and food, as well as farmer and investor equity. With investor support, they purchase agricultural land, infrastructure and farmer housing, transition it to organic, and lease it to farmers. Their mission is to secure social and financial capital in farmland using methods that work well for farmers, investors, communities and the land. To date, NEFA has created farmland access for about 30 farm businesses.

### **Mohawk Hudson Land Conservancy (MHLC)**

MHLC serves as the local resource for farmers in Albany, Schenectady, and Montgomery counties for farm preservation. As a member of the Hudson Valley Farmlink Network, MHLC also serves as a local contact for farmers looking for farmland. MHLC's "Conservation Priority Areas" include properties which can be utilized for their natural resources, particularly farming and sustainable forestry. MHLC has helped preserve over 1,000 acres of farmland across the capital region through conservation easements.

### **Columbia Land Conservancy (CLC)**

CLC launched The Farmer-Landowner Match Program (75 matches to date), allowing farmers to access land while keeping farmland in production. This allows older farmers and non-farming landowners to preserve and protect their land. CLC applies for grants on behalf of farmers in order to protect prime farmland and help make it affordable. They have also utilized other tools to support farmland access, including preemptive purchase rights and longer-term ground leases.

### **Agricultural Stewardship Association (ASA)**

ASA is a non-profit land conservancy focused on the protection of farmland in Washington and Rensselaer counties. They help advise farmers and other landowners arrange conservation easements, guaranteeing that land will never be developed for non-farm purposes.

### **Scenic Hudson Land Trust**

Scenic Hudson partners with farmers to conserve their fields and orchards — enabling them to grow their operations and sustain the agricultural economies of rural communities. Conserved 18,000 acres on more than 125 family farms in six counties.

### **Saratoga PLAN (land trust)**

Saratoga PLAN assists landowners who wish to conserve their land for ongoing agricultural purposes. As a partner in the Hudson Valley Farmlink Network, Saratoga PLAN helps by facilitating good matches for landowners and farmers.