

Farm Succession Planning

Have you begun planning for the transfer of your farm to the next owner?

Who can help to guide you through the steps of the farm succession planning process?

Where can you find beginning farmers looking for opportunities on Massachusetts farms?

It's never too early to plan for your farm's future. MDAR offers one-on-one succession planning assistance and group trainings through our programs for Massachusetts farm families. Contact Melissa Adams at 413-726-2001 or Melissa.L.Adams@mass.gov for more information. Here are other programs and resources that can help.

Online Succession Planning Resources

New England Farmland Finder

<https://newenglandfarmlandfinder.org>

A regional farm property clearinghouse that makes it easy for farm properties to be posted, and for farm seekers to search through them. Free, simple, region-wide, automated, and constantly current.

Farmland Access Legal Toolkit

<https://farmlandaccess.org/farm-transfer>

The Farmland Access Legal Toolkit explains legal arrangements that provide farmers more affordable and equitable farmland access and help landowners balance earning income for retirement with making their land affordable to the next generation of farmers.

American Farmland Trust: Farmland Information Center

<http://farmlandinfo.org/transfer-your-farm-or-ranch>

Guides, webinars, and other information that outline the initial steps toward developing a farm transfer plan.

Succession Planning Services

Land For Good

<https://landforgood.org/who/farm-families>

Land For Good provides support and expert guidance to help farmers and landowners in New England navigate the complex challenges of land access, tenure, and transfer. One-on-one advising and referral services provided to farmers at no cost, and ongoing client services with a sliding scale fee.

Contact: Jae Silverman, 603-357-1600, jae@landforgood.org

Farm Credit East

<https://www.farmcrediteast.com/knowledge-exchange/Blog/todays-harvest/estate-planning>

Farm Credit East offers expert consultants that work with farm families on succession planning.

Contact: Jon Jaffe, 860-779-5420 ext. 8341, jon.jaffe@farmcrediteast.com

Massachusetts Agricultural Mediation Program

https://www.umb.edu/mopc/what_we_do/projects/agricultural_mediation_program

Massachusetts Office of Public Collaboration provides a range of services for agricultural issues, including family farm transition, through its USDA-sponsored MA Agricultural Mediation Program.

Contact: Courtney Breese, 617-287-4046, Courtney.Breese@umb.edu

Conservation Law Foundation Legal Food Hub

<https://www.legalfoodhub.org/>

A free service that connects eligible Massachusetts farmers with volunteer attorneys who can provide pro bono services related to farm succession planning.

Contact: Mary Egan, 844-529-4769, legalfoodhub@clf.org



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