

Farmland Partnership Program Cohort Meeting 1

10am – 1pm on Thursday, February 26, 2026

Online

Facilitated by Katharine Otto, Farmland Action Plan Coordinator

Join the polling!

ADD QR code

www.menti.com/?????



Logistics

Questions and comments

- Please use mentimeter to add your questions and comments on the projects
- Please avoid conversation in the chat. Keep it for sharing links and resources
- Feel free to use the “Reactions” – eg celebrate, thumbs up – as encouragement to presenters

Meeting notes

- Katharine will share meeting notes, including what is submitted via mentimeter
- Please also consider sharing your notes and takeaways with members of your partner group who are unable to attend today

Microphones and cameras

- Please keep your camera off and microphone muted unless you are presenting or we are doing Q&A

Recording

- There will not be a recording of today’s discussion. Instead, Katharine will share meeting notes.

Mentimeter

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Agenda and Goals

Agenda

- ❖ 10:00 Welcome, quick overview of the program and introductions
- ❖ 10:25 Digging into the projects - Viability Projects
- ❖ 11:20 Break
- ❖ 11:30 Digging into the projects - Protection Projects
- ❖ 12:10 Digging into the projects - Access Projects
- ❖ 12:55 Next steps and closing
- ❖ 1:00 Finish

Today's Goals

- ❖ Understand purpose of the Farmland Partnership Program
- ❖ Introduce the projects which partners are doing and dive into some details about them
- ~~❖ Connect partners both formally and informally—
Keeping until next time!~~

Implementing the Farmland Action Plan through Farmland Partnership Program

Goals – Farmland Partnership Program

The goal of the Program is to build networks of partners who work together collaboratively and in coordination to protect farmland, enhance farm viability, and ensure access to farmland.

This is achieved by providing funding to eligible partners to work with farmers, farmland owners, agricultural service providers, municipalities and other organizations/entities to protect farmland, enhance farm viability, and ensure access to farmland.

Key characteristics of this program

- Rooted in partnership and collaboration
- Fostering systems change
- Grounded in implementing tasks of the Farmland Action Plan
- Building capacity of partner organizations and staff
- Filling gaps between other funding programs and initiatives

Most of what is outlined in the Farmland Action Plan is there because there is something that needs to be done that hasn't been easy to address.

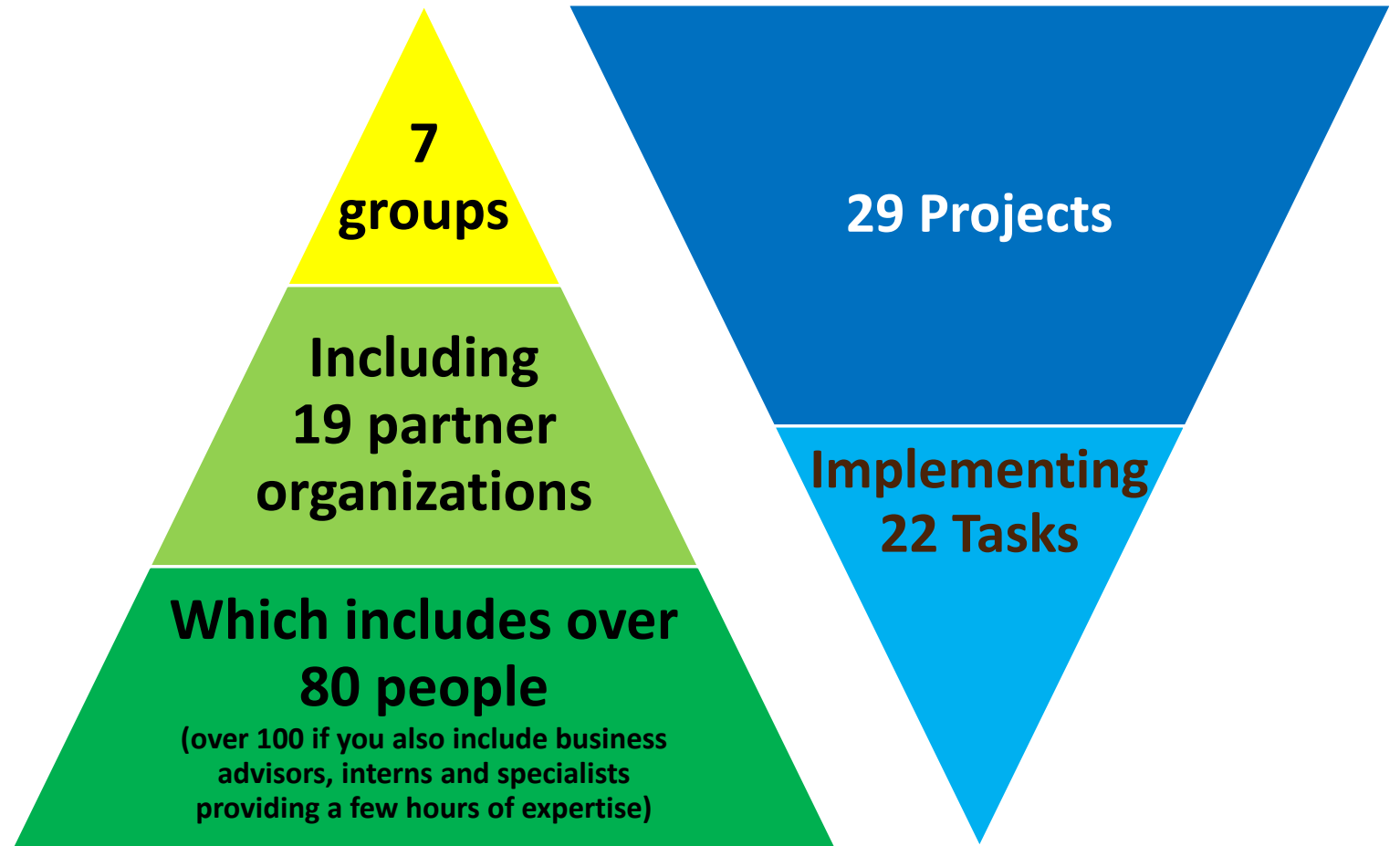
This program is not about doing things the way they've always been done. Instead, it's about reaching to do more or changing how we do things.



By the numbers for 2026-2027 grants

In December 2025, MDAR announced the award of the FY2026 Farmland Partnership Projects which will be implemented over two years from 2026 – 2027.

All projects must be completed by October 31, 2027.



Total awards of \$1.9 million for individual projects and common activities

Getting your ducks in a row

Please think ahead about needs, challenges and opportunities.

Regular check in meetings are part of the feedback loop, but also email Katharine with questions and emerging issues as soon as they arise!

Think also about how cohort meetings can help with your projects. What would be helpful to discuss with other partners?



Introductions

Introduce yourself

Keep it very short! 15 seconds max!

1. What's your name?
2. Which partner do you work for?
3. What is your expertise/ specialization?
 - o 5-10 words only!

Name	Partner
Amie Avila	WF
Ayn Yeagle	GP
Benneth Phelps	TCP
Brad Fesmire	SEMAP
Chris Richards	PPLT
Dimple Rana	MDAR
Emily Round	NESFP
Erica Campbell	NIDC
Gerard Kennedy	MDAR
Heather Meehan	SEMAP
Hilda Roque	NR
Jae Silverman	LFG
Janet Edwards	GP
Jason Comcowich	NR

Name	Partner
Jasper Cowley	MDAR
Jay Rosa	MDAR
Jeff Cole	TCP
Jennifer Hashley	NESFP
Jessy Gill	WF
Karen Grey	WT
Karen Pettinelli	SRPEDD
Katharine Otto	MDAR
Kathleen Doherty	AFT
Kendy Capois	NR
Kevin Antoszewski	AFT
Kristina Pechulis	MAFSC
Laura Bandara	PVPC
Leah Jurman	NESFP

Name	Partner
Margaret Christie	CISA
Melissa Adams	MDAR
Monte Montero	NR
Nate Erwin	PPLT
Olivia Palmer	MDAR
Rachel Brice	LFG
Rachel Bruce	WT
Rachel Weil	MAPC
Rebecca Davidson	MDAR
Rhiannon Dugan	OCPC
Robb Johnson	MLTC
Ron Hall	MDAR
Rose Arruda	MDAR
Ryan Burke	MDAR

Name	Partner
Shemariah Blum-Evitts	LFG
Sister Anna Gilbert-Muhammed	PPLT
Susan Murray	SEMAP
Tamsin Flanders	FRCOG
Taofen Bi	AFT
Tara Duffy	NESFP
Taylor Arsenault	MDAR
Others?	

Cohort expectations

Role of a planner/ coordinator

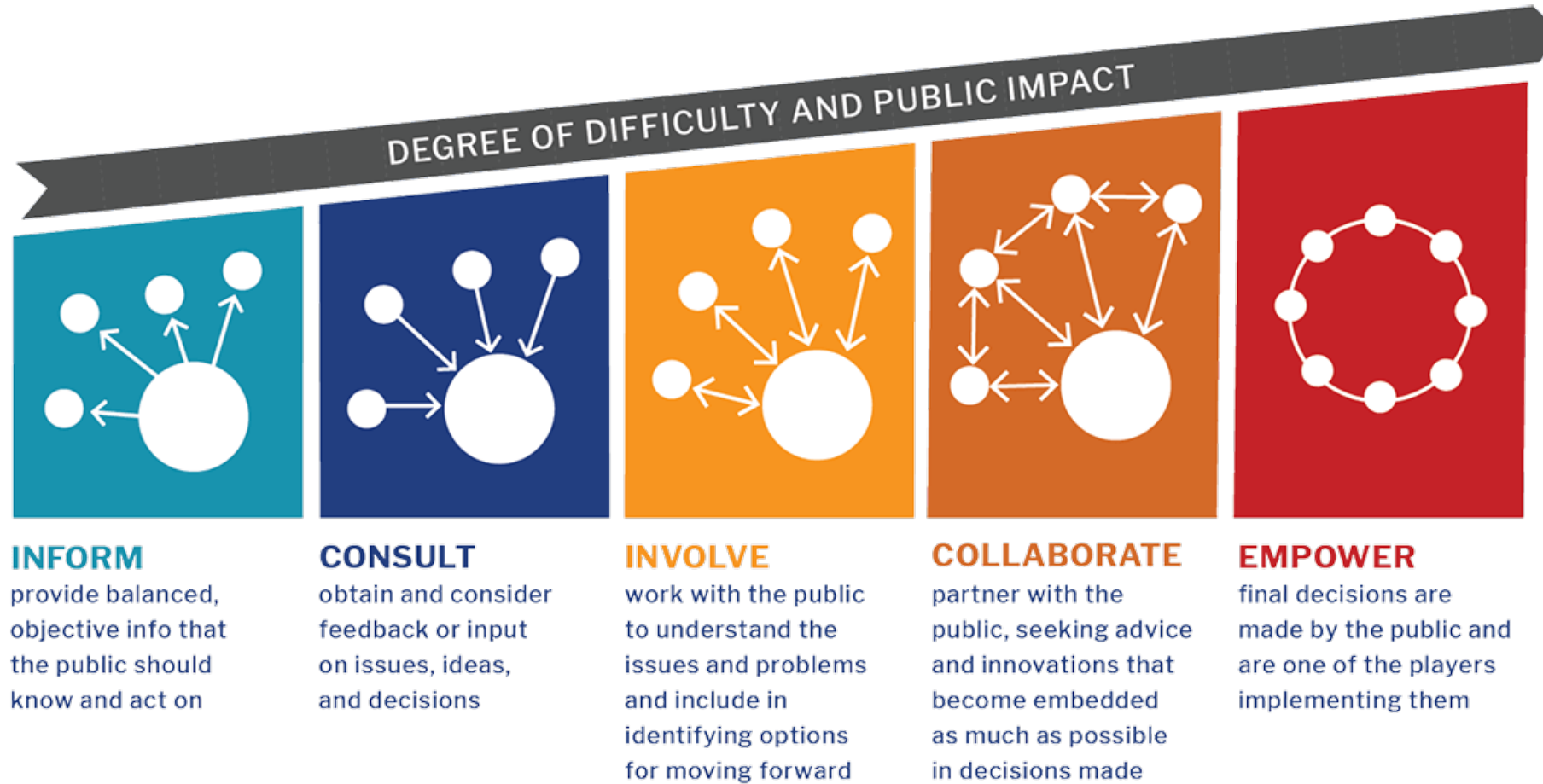
- Connecting people & resources
- Help with coordination
- Seek and foster opportunities for compromise

“Sometimes the role of government is not to solve problems directly, but rather to play conductor to the orchestra of solution chasers around the country”

Priya Parker - The Art of Gathering.
How we meet and why it matters.



Partnerships built on collaboration



What is the purpose of cohort meetings?

Develop a cohort partnership network between types of expertise and geographic areas.

Why?

The goal of the Program is to build networks of partners who work together collaboratively and in coordination to protect farmland, enhance farm viability, and ensure access to farmland.



Cohort expectations – to discuss next time

Help to set and clarify:

- How things will be done
- What you are expected to do
- What to expect of other people

Cohort expectations until we can refine together

For partners

- Prepare ahead of time
- Balance your participation – speak and listen
- Stay in the room
 - Avoid doing other work during the meetings
- Be open minded
- Ask questions if you don't understand
- Be constructive
 - Suggest a potential way forward if you identify something you aren't happy with
- Be aware of potential bias
 - Consider what are other people seeing and working with – job responsibilities, lived experience, perspectives

Katharine's Role

- Share agenda with clear expectations of what is intended to be covered during the meeting
- Define roles and responsibilities for participants
- At the end of the meeting summarize next steps, including for new items raised during the meeting

Discussion Facilitator Roles

- Encourage some people to speak up more
- Monitor whether a specific side topic should be moved to another meeting
- Bring conversation back to topic as needed

Digging into the projects

Overview of projects



1 – Protect and steward land

- 8 projects
- Implementing 7 different tasks
- \$315,950 in grant awards
- Includes municipal planning, Chapter 61A, training for surveyors and appraisers



2 – Access to farmland

- 9 projects
- Implementing 7 different tasks
- \$395,724 in grant awards
- Includes land licensing, shared land tenure, transfer planning tools, DEI capacity building



3 – Viability of farms and farmland

- 12 projects
- Implementing 8 different tasks
- \$546,163 in grant awards
- Includes peer mentorship, training people who work with farmers, climate change adaptation, fostering culturally appropriate outreach

Let's explore the projects together

Goals

- Understand the projects
- See expertise of different partners
- Look for opportunities to collaborate
- Ask questions
- Get to know each other better

Structure

- 29 projects is a lot to get through
- Break into 3 groups of projects (Viability, Protection, Access)
 - Then projects collated by topic/ task
- Quick Q&A this time. More discussion next cohort meeting
- Most questions and comments will not be addressed, but will be passed along to project leads

For each project/ sub-activity

For the project lead (or assigned partner)

Four minutes (or less!) per project/ sub-activity

1. Why is it important?
2. What are some key things are you doing?
(Please avoid repeating the writing on the factsheet)
3. When do you start working on this?
4. Is there anything else the cohort should be aware of?

Audience - All other partners

- Enter comments and questions into mentimeter so they are collated alongside others. Please add the project code at the front of each comment (eg FRCOG 1.1, NE 3.2)

These notes will not be shown during presentations, but will be scrolling on the big screen during the Q&A time and added to the meeting notes.

Questions and comments will be forwarded to project leads after the meeting

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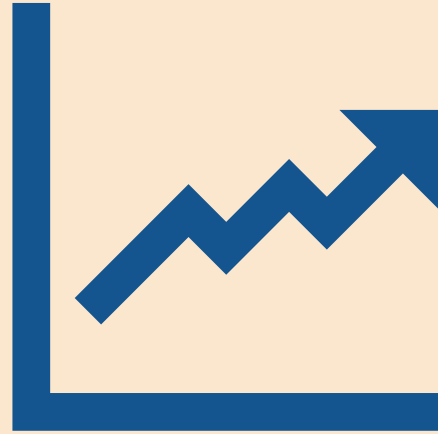
Four minutes per project

To ensure we have time for everyone
and a little time for Q&A

Countdown clock (4:00 minutes)

1 minute left

**10 seconds
left!**



Farm Viability

Overview of projects implementing Goal III of the MFAP:
Support and enhance the viability of farms and farmland



Farm Viability – 12 projects

(Task being implemented in parenthesis)

Strategy A – Ensure that laws, regulations, programs, and investments support farm viability

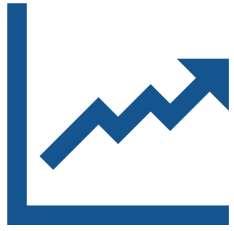
- Train professionals who work with farmers (Task 1297)
- Increase the expertise of farm business advisors (Task 1298)
- Financial Facilitation (Task 1321)

Strategy B – Grow resilience and sustainability practices on farms

- Climate change adaptation (Task 1425)

Strategy C – Increase use of services, programs, and other resources by farmers

- Navigators for launching and growing a farming enterprise (Task 1453)
- Farmland access and farm viability training and technical assistance (Task 1449)
- Train-the-Trainer Toolkit and BIPOC cohort development (Task 1449)
- Expand regenerative peer mentorship program (Task 1354)
- Peer mentorship assessment and storytelling (Task 1354)
- Farmer mentorship and peer-to-peer programs (Task 1354)
- Learning circles with culturally appropriate outreach (Task 1356)
- BIPOC farmer-to-farmer outreach and peer support (Task 1356)



Financial facilitation

FPP Project (TCP 3.2) (Statewide)

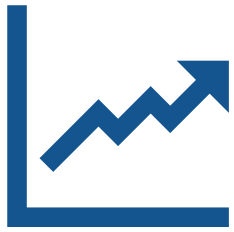
- Define and refine the role of business advisors who provide financing facilitation enabling financing readiness, consideration of financing options, and successful borrowing.
- Pilot one-to-one support for farmers in this role as financial facilitator.

MFAP Task being implemented (MFAP ID 1320 and 1321)

- Action III.A.10 – Establish a financial facilitation support function, potentially requiring new staff resources.
- Task 1320 – Establish qualifications, characteristics, and responsibilities of the financial facilitator to include racial/ethnic/language diversity; ability to effectively explain financial processes to farmers/farm owners; and a deep understanding of related services provided by banks and state agencies and public- and private-sector funding.
- Task 1321 – Ensure support is provided by an expert who understands the complexities of farm/farmland-related financing and is able to answer questions, explain the process, and serve as a liaison between bankers, farmers, and other stakeholders as appropriate, at no cost. The financial facilitator will have no equity stake in the transactions.

Implementing Partners

- Lead – The Carrot Project (TCP)
- Other – None
- Contact email – Jeff Cole, jcole@thecarrotproject.org



Train realtors and attorneys who work with farmers

FPP Project (LFG 3.1) (Statewide)

- Train realtors and attorneys about needs of farmers, risks to farmland, and opportunities to support farm transfer and alternative tenure models.

MFAP Task being implemented (MFAP ID 1297)

- Action III.A.6 – Prompt further development of industries supportive of agriculture to ensure they serve farmer, farm and farmland issues fully
- Task 1297 – Train and connect key professionals—tax advisors, appraisers, surveyors, realtors, lawyers, and others—who work with farmers and farmland owners through a strong referral system, with incentives/infrastructure to work together.

Implementing Partners

- Lead – Land For Good
- Other – None
- Contact email – Shema Blum-Evitts, info@landforgood.org



Increase the expertise of farm business advisors

FPP Project (TCP 3.4) (Statewide)

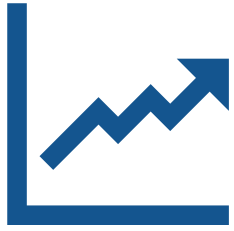
- Train farm business advisors in farm financials, with a focus on farm resiliency.

MFAP Task being implemented (MFAP ID 1321)

- Action III.A.6 – Prompt further development of industries supportive of agriculture to ensure they serve farmer, farm and farmland issues fully.
- Task 1298 – Support workforce development, networking, and coordination of a next generation of farm succession and farm business advisors.

Implementing Partners

- Lead – The Carrot Project (in their role with the Agricultural Viability Alliance)
- Other – None
- Contact email – Benneth Phelps, bphelps@thecarrotproject.org



Climate change adaptation

FPP Project (AFT 3.2) (Statewide)

- Develop farm-specific climate adaptation plans with farmers.
- Facilitate education and networking among farm advisors across MA about climate adaptation.

MFAP Task being implemented (MFAP ID 1425)

- Action III.B.A – Increase technical assistance to farmers around crop- and livestock-specific climate change adaptation strategies.
- Task 1425 – Create a program to support farmers with technical assistance around crop- and livestock-specific climate change adaptation strategies.

Implementing Partners

- Lead – American Farmland Trust
- Other – None
- Contact email – Kevin Antoszewski, kantoszewski@farmland.org



Peer mentorship assessment and storytelling

FPP Project (NE 3.2) (Partner service areas in eastern, southern and western MA)

- Assess peer-to-peer mentorship efforts in Massachusetts and identify key themes and best practices.

MFAP Task being implemented (MFAP ID 1354)*

- Action III.C.2 – Expand opportunities for one-to-one assistance for farmers, prioritizing beginning and historically underserved farmers and aspiring farmers.
- Task 1354 – Explore expanding range farmer mentorship and peer-to-peer programs.

Implementing Partners

- Lead – New Entry Sustainable Farming Project (New Entry)
- Other – Nuestras Raíces, Pocasset Pokanoket Land Trust (PPLT)
- Contact email – Jennifer Hashley, jennifer.hashley@tufts.edu

** Note: Three FPP projects implementing one task*



Regenerative peer mentorship program for beginning farmers

Farmland Partnership Program Factsheet
Last revised – 12/1/2025
Lead Partner – Pocasset Pokanoket Land Trust
Project – NE 3.1
MFAP Task – 1354
Page number – 1

FPP Project (NE 3.1) (Partner service areas in eastern, southern and western MA)

- Pilot and expand peer mentorship programs for beginning farmers that focus on regenerative agriculture and area led by experienced BIPOC farmers.

MFAP Task being implemented (MFAP ID 1354)*

- Action III.C.2 – Expand opportunities for one-to-one assistance for farmers, prioritizing beginning and historically underserved farmers and aspiring farmers.
- Task 1354 – Explore expanding range farmer mentorship and peer-to-peer programs.

Implementing Partners

- Lead – Pocasset Pokanoket Land Trust (PPLT)
- Other – Nuestras Raíces, New Entry Sustainable Farming Project (New Entry)
- Contact email – Nathan Erwin nate@pocassetlandtrust.org

** Note: Three FPP projects implementing one task*



Farmer mentorship and peer-to-peer programs

FPP Project (TCP 3.3) (Southeastern MA and Connecticut River Valley)

- Host regional farmer roundtables focusing on farm viability
- Host farmer-led, on-farm skill-shares and workshops
- Expand other networking and mentoring opportunities for farmers

MFAP Task being implemented (MFAP ID 1354)*

- Action III.C.2 – Expand opportunities for one-to-one assistance for farmers, prioritizing beginning and historically underserved farmers and aspiring farmers.
- Task 1354 – Explore expanding range farmer mentorship and peer-to-peer programs.

Implementing Partners

- Lead –Southeastern Massachusetts Agricultural Partnership (SEMAP)
- Other – Community Involved in Sustaining Agriculture (CISA)
- Contact email – Susan Murray, smurray@semaponline.org

** Note: Three FPP projects implementing one task*



Navigators for launching and growing a farming enterprise

FPP Project (3.1) (Statewide)

- Define and refine the role of a navigator who provides support to aspiring and beginning farmers as they launch and grow their farm business.
- Pilot one-to-one support for farmers in this role as navigator.

MFAP Task being implemented (MFAP ID 1353)

- Action III.C.2 – Expand opportunities for one-to-one assistance for farmers, prioritizing beginning and historically underserved farmers and aspiring farmers.
- Task 1353 – Establish a diverse network of “navigators,” individuals based at trusted local organizations who are well-versed in the range of public and private resources, regulations, and processes, who can work one-on-one with aspiring* farmers through the entire process of launching a farming enterprise.

Implementing Partners

- Lead – Community Involved in Sustaining Agriculture (CISA)
- Other – The Carrot Project, Southeastern Massachusetts Agricultural Partnership (SEMAP)
- Contact email – Margaret Christie, margaret@buylocalfood.org

**Please note that for the purpose of this project, which is focusing on launching a farming enterprise, beginning farmers are included at this time. Refinement of the matrix may occur in the future.*



Farmland access and farm viability training and technical assistance Community of Practice

Farmland Partnership Program Factsheet
Last revised – 12/1/2025
Lead Partner – New Entry
Project – NE 3.3
MFAP Task – 1449
Page number – 1

FPP Project (NE 3.3) (Partner service areas in eastern, southern and western MA)

- Establish a Community of Practice (CoP) to train and support navigators that focus on farmland access and farm viability.

MFAP Task being implemented (MFAP ID 1449)*

- Action III.C.2 – Expand opportunities for one-to-one assistance for farmers, prioritizing beginning and historically underserved farmers and aspiring farmers.
- Task 1449 – Establish a diverse network of “navigators,” individuals based at trusted local organizations who are well-versed in the range of public and private resources, regulations, and processes, who can work one-on-one with existing farmers through the process of sustaining a farming enterprise.

Implementing Partners

- Lead – New Entry Sustainable Farming Project (New Entry)
- Other – Nuestras Raíces, Pocasset Pokanoket Land Trust (PPLT), Growing Places
- Contact email – Jennifer Hashley, jennifer.hashley@tufts.edu

** Note: Two FPP projects implementing one task*



Train-the-trainer toolkit and BIPOC cohort development

FPP Project (NE 3.4) (Partner service areas in eastern, southern and western MA)

- Create a multilingual toolkit and launch a “Train-the-Trainer” for delivering culturally responsive farm support.
- Train BIPOC technical assistance providers embedded in trusted organizations.

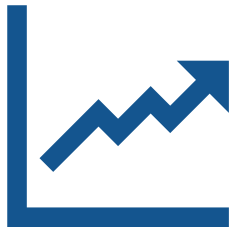
MFAP Task being implemented (MFAP ID 1449)*

- Action III.C.2 – Expand opportunities for one-to-one assistance for farmers, prioritizing beginning and historically underserved farmers and aspiring farmers.
- Task 1449 – Establish a diverse network of “navigators,” individuals based at trusted local organizations who are well-versed in the range of public and private resources, regulations, and processes, who can work one-on-one with existing farmers through the process of sustaining a farming enterprise.

Implementing Partners

- Lead – Growing Places
- Other – New Entry Sustainable Farming Project (New Entry), Pocasset Pokanoket Land Trust (PPLT)
- Contact email – Ayn Yeagle, ayn@growingplaces.org

** Note: Two FPP projects implementing one task*



BIPOC Farmer-to-Farmer Outreach and Peer Support

FPP Project (NE 3.5) (Partner service areas in eastern, southern and western MA)

- BIPOC technical assistance providers will share resources, strategies, technical assistance, and build peer support relationships among BIPOC farmers to promote land equity.

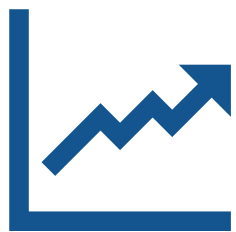
MFAP Task being implemented (MFAP ID 1356)*

- Action III.C.2 – Expand opportunities for one-to-one assistance for farmers, prioritizing beginning and historically underserved farmers and aspiring farmers.
- Task 1356 – Support culturally appropriate outreach by other experienced farmers of color.

Implementing Partners

- Lead – Growing Places
- Other – New Entry Sustainable Farming Project (New Entry), Pocasset Pokanoket Land Trust (PPLT)
- Contact email – Michelle Nikfarjam, michelle@pocassetlandtrust.org

** Note: Two FPP projects implementing one task*



Learning circles with culturally appropriate outreach

FPP Project (AFT 3.1) (Statewide)

- Convene learning circles for BIPOC farmers led by experienced farmers of color that focus on food production and trusted pathways to access knowledge, markets and other resources.

MFAP Task being implemented (MFAP ID 1356)*

- Action III.C.2 – Expand opportunities for one-to-one assistance for farmers, prioritizing beginning and historically underserved farmers and aspiring farmers.
- Task 1356 – Support culturally appropriate outreach by other experienced farmers of color.

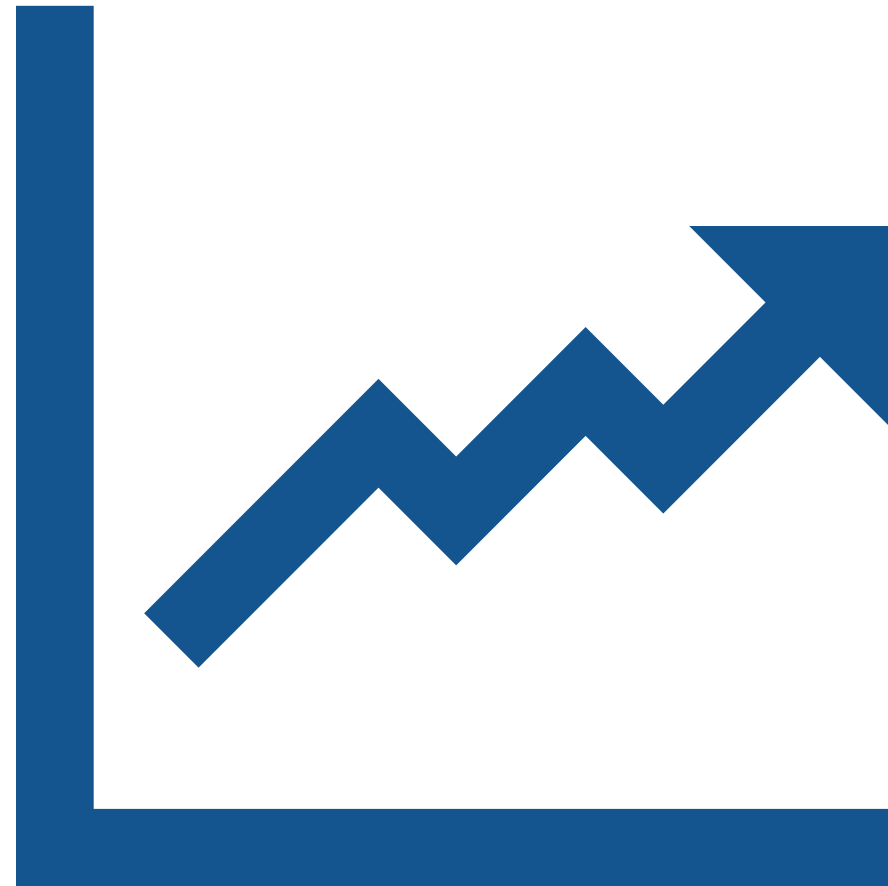
Implementing Partners

- Lead – American Farmland Trust (AFT)
- Other – None
- Contact email – Charline Xu, cxu@farmland.org

** Note: Two FPP projects implementing one task*

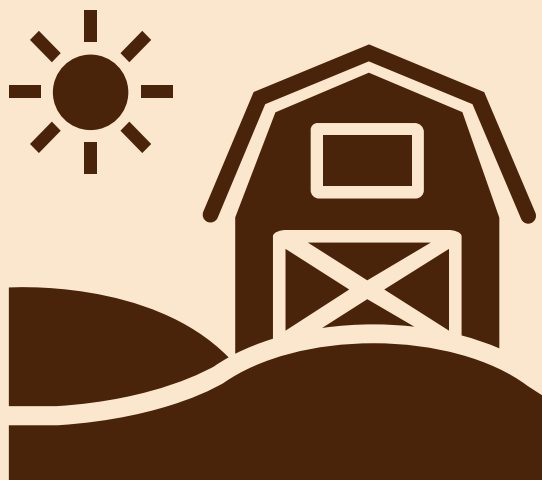
Q&A on viability projects

Show mentimeter





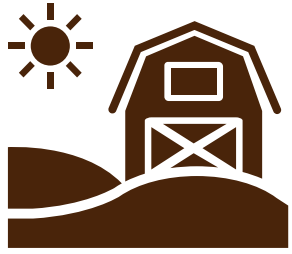
Break



Farmland Protection

Overview of projects implementing Goal I of the MFAP:

Accelerate the permanent protection and stewardship of farmland



Farmland Protection – 8 projects

(MFAP Task being implemented in parenthesis)

Strategy A - Permanently protect farmland through purchases of agricultural restrictions

- Municipal Farmland Protection Plans (Task 1018)
- Municipal preparedness for land acquisition (Task 1432)
- Build awareness of importance of farm viability in land protection (Task 1432)
- Increase pool of appraisers and surveyors (Task 1076)
- Municipal workshops on 61A and ROFR (Task 1062)
- Municipal training on 61A (Task 1063)

Strategy B - Further develop and implement additional tools to avoid farmland loss and retain farmland

- Using CPA funds for 61A lands (Task 1114)
- Education on zoning and planning tools that reduce farmland loss (Task 1125)

Strategy C - Prioritize protection of whole farms

- None this round

Strategy D - Formalize and integrate decision-making processes regarding farmland protection

- None this round



Municipal Farmland Protection Plans

Farmland Partnership Program Factsheet
Last revised – 11/10/2025
Lead partner – FRCOG
Project – FRCOG 1.1
MFAP Task – 1018
Page number – 1

FPP Project* (FRCOG 1.1) (Western Massachusetts)

- Develop a process and model for developing municipal Farmland Protection Plans with communities of varying sizes and characteristics.
- Identify incentives and barriers that could be addressed that would encourage creation of Farmland Protection Plans.
- Work with 6 municipalities to develop Municipal Farmland Protection Plans.

MFAP Task being implemented (MFAP ID 1018)

- Action I.A.3 – Leverage the maximum amount of federal funding available.
- Task 1018 – Incentivize municipalities and regional planning agencies (RPAs) to develop local farmland protection plans reflecting local farming opportunities and priorities.

Implementing Partners

- Lead – Franklin Regional Council of Governments (FRCOG)
- Other – Berkshire Regional Planning Commission (BRPC) and Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC)
- Contact email – Tamsin Flanders, tflanders@frcog.org

* Note: Also implementing the [Resilient Lands Initiative](#)



Education on zoning and planning tools that reduce farmland loss

Farmland Partnership Program Factsheet
Last revised – 11/24/2025
Lead partner– SRPEDD
Project – SRPEDD 1.4
MFAP Task – 1125
Page number – 1

FPP Project (SRPEDD 1.4) (Southeast Massachusetts)

- Provide education on zoning bylaws, best practices, municipal planning documents, and policies/procures related to conservation subdivisions and compact development that supports farmland protection.

MFAP Task being implemented (MFAP ID 1125)

- Action I.B.7– Advance zoning reform and smart growth policies that encourage density and development that do not result in the loss of farmland.
- Task 1125 – Educate municipalities about the use of conservation subdivision/natural resources protection zoning and accessory apartment bylaws as tools to promote compact development and provide technical support to communities seeking to adopt and use these zoning tools.

Implementing Partners

- Lead – Southeastern Regional Planning and Economic Development District (SRPEDD)
- Other - Old Colony Planning Council (OCPC)
- Contact email – Karen Pettinelli, kpettinelli@srpedd.org



Increase pool of appraisers and surveyors

Farmland Partnership Program Factsheet
Last revised – 11/17/2025
Lead partner – Massachusetts Land Trust
Coalition (MLTC)
Project – AFT 1.1
MFAP Task – 1076
Page number – 1

FPP Project (AFT 1.1) (Statewide)

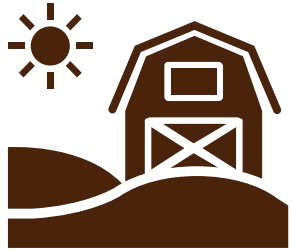
- Assess needs and barriers, build relationships, and provide training and resources to increase the pool of appraisers, surveyors and other contractors needed for farmland protection transactions.

MFAP Task being implemented (MFAP ID 1076)

- Action I.A.7 – Increase the number of applications to APR, ALE, and non-ALE protection programs.
- Task 1076 – Increase the pool of appraisers, surveyors, and other contractors.

Implementing Partners

- Lead – Massachusetts Land Trust Coalition (MLTC)
- Other – None
- Contact email – Robb Johnson, robb@massland.org



Build awareness of importance of farm viability in land protection

FPP Project* (TCP 1.1) (Statewide)

- Education and technical assistance for land trusts connecting the importance of farm viability to farmland protection processes.

MFAP Task being implemented (MFAP ID 1432)**

- Action I.A.6 – Build capacity of state agencies, land trusts, municipalities, and other entities to protect agricultural land.
- Task 1432 – Build the capacity of restriction-holding entities to effectively identify, review, and acquire restrictions that allow agriculture.

Implementing Partners

- Lead – The Carrot Project
- Other – None
- Contact email – Benneth Phelps, bphelps@thecarrotproject.org

* Note: Also implementing the Resilient Lands Initiative

** Note: Two FPP projects implementing one task



Municipal preparedness for land acquisition

FPP Project* (SRPEDD 1.2) (Southeast Massachusetts)

- Engage municipalities and build capacity of municipalities respond to ROFR.
- Identify needs and resources for restriction-holding entities in relation to 61A preservation.

MFAP Task being implemented (MFAP ID 1432)**

- Action I.A.6 – Build capacity of state agencies, land trusts, municipalities, and other entities to protect agricultural land.
- Task 1432 – Build the capacity of restriction-holding entities to effectively identify, review, and acquire restrictions that allow agriculture.

Implementing Partners

- Lead – Southeastern Regional Planning and Economic Development District (SRPEDD)
- Other – Wildlands Trust and Old Colony Planning Council (OCPC)
- Contact email – Karen Pettinelli, kpettinelli@srpedd.org

* Note: Also implementing the Resilient Lands Initiative

** Note: Two FPP projects implementing one task



Municipal workshops on 61A and ROFR

Farmland Partnership Program Factsheet
Last revised – 11/24/2025
Lead partner – SRPEDD
Project – SRPEDD 1.1
MFAP Task – 1062
Page number – 1

FPP Project (SRPEDD 1.1) (Southeast Massachusetts)

- Develop and implement a municipal workshop series on topics relevant to preservation of Chapter 61A lands and Right of First Refusal

MFAP Task being implemented (MFAP ID 1062)

- Action I.A.11 – Increase awareness and understanding of permanent protection options including APR, ALE, and non-ALE protection programs.
- Task 1062 – Create guidance documents, websites, webinars, and other materials targeted at specific audiences on programs such as Chapter 61A, APR, and others.

Implementing Partners

- Lead – Southeastern Regional Planning and Economic Development District (SRPEDD)
- Other - Wildlands Trust and Old Colony Planning Council (OCPC)
- Contact email – Karen Pettinelli, kpettinelli@srpedd.org



Municipal training on 61A

Farmland Partnership Program Factsheet
Last revised – 9/25/2025
Lead partner – SRPEDD
Project – SRPEDD 1.3
MFAP Task – 1063
Page number – 1

FPP Project (SRPEDD 1.3) (Southeast Massachusetts)

- Municipal training, topical consulting sessions, and one-on-one technical assistance for municipal representatives in relation to ROFRs and protection of Chapter 61A Properties.

MFAP Task being implemented (MFAP ID 1063)

- Action I.A.11 – Increase awareness and understanding of permanent protection options including APR, ALE, and non-ALE protection programs.
- Task 1063 – Develop and implement a program to train municipalities on the economic, food security, and other benefits of farmland, to help them understand the details of Chapter 61A Right of First Refusal (ROFR), and to encourage them to exercise their rights or assign them to nonprofits.

Implementing Partners

- Lead – Southeastern Regional Planning and Economic Development District (SRPEDD)
- Other - Wildlands Trust and Old Colony Planning Council (OCPC)
- Contact email – Karen Pettinelli, kpettinelli@srpedd.org



Using CPA funds for 61A lands

FPP Project (SRPEDD 1.5) (Southeast Massachusetts)

- Create informational materials on the use of CPA funds for acquisition of Chapter 61A lands.
- Provide technical assistance to municipalities about how CPA funds can be used to support farmland protection as it relates to ROFRs.

MFAP Task being implemented (MFAP ID 1114)

- Action I.B.3 – Identify opportunities to increase CPA funding and its application to protect farmland and affordable on- and off-farm housing.
- Task 1114 – Provide technical assistance to town community preservation committees, agricultural commissions, and land trusts about how CPA funds can be used to support farmland protection.

Implementing Partners

- Lead – Southeastern Regional Planning and Economic Development District (SRPEDD)
- Other - Wildlands Trust and Old Colony Planning Council (OCPC)
- Contact email – Karen Pettinelli, kpettinelli@srpedd.org

Q&A on protection projects

Show mentimeter





Farmland Access

Overview of projects implementing Goal II of the MFAP:

Increase access to farmland



Farmland Access – 9 projects

(Task being implemented in parenthesis)

Strategy A – Make more land available for agriculture

- Prioritize Historically Underserved Farmers for municipal land licensing (Task 1156)
- Education about licensing municipal lands (Task 1162)
- Education for municipalities with new licensing programs (Task 1162)
- Education for municipalities about indigenous and local foodways (Task 1395)
- Case study research on shared land tenure models (Task 1192)
- Pilot shared land tenure site (Task 1192)

Strategy B – Support farm transfer and succession in ways that enhance access to farmland

- Educate farmers on transfer planning (Task 1203)
- Promote farmland linking (Task 1208)

Strategy C – Prioritize increased access for BIPOC and historically underserved farmers in all farmland access programs and policies

- Build DEI capacity across food system partners (Task 1231)

Strategy D – Support and expand service-provider networks to meet the needs of all farmers and potential farmers

- None this round



Prioritize historically underserved farmers (HUF) for municipal land licensing

Farmland Partnership Program Factsheet
Last revised – 2/24/2026
Lead partner – World Farmers
Project – WF 2.2
MFAP Task – 1156
Page number – 1

FPP Project (WF 2.2) (Statewide)

- Research and report on existing models and best practices for municipal farmland licensing where historically underserved farmers are prioritized.

MFAP Task being implemented (MFAP ID 1156)

- Action II.A.1 – Assess all existing, publicly held land for its suitability for agriculture and make more of it available for agriculture.
- Task 1156 – Create case studies of expanding access to historically underserved populations through MDAR's land licensing program. Evaluate and refine licensing processes with a view to sharing lessons learned with other entities, such as municipalities.

Implementing Partners

- Lead – World Farmers
- Other – Massachusetts Food System Collaborative (MAFSC), Nipmuc Indian Development Corporation (NIDC)
- Contact email – Jessy Gill, farmland@worldfarmers.org



Education about licensing municipal lands

Farmland Partnership Program Factsheet
Last revised – 12/24/2026
Lead partner – MA Food System
Collaborative
Project – WF 2.1
MFAP Task – 1162
Page number – 1

FPP Project (WF 2.1) (Statewide)

- Research and report on existing models and best practices for municipal farmland licensing from municipal and farmer perspectives.

MFAP Task being implemented (MFAP ID 1162)*

- Action II.A.1 – Assess all existing, publicly held land for its suitability for agriculture and make more of it available for agriculture.
- Task 1162 – Support municipalities in developing their own farmland licensing agreements and plans.

Implementing Partners

- Lead – Massachusetts Food System Collaborative
- Other – World Farmers, Nipmuc Indian Development Corporation (NIDC)
- Contact email – Kristina Pechulis, kristina@mafoodsystem.org

* Note: Two FPP projects implementing one task



Education for municipalities with new licensing programs

FPP Project (WF 2.3) (Greater Boston and neighboring areas)

- Provide education and technical assistance for municipalities developing and implementing a farmland licensing program.

MFAP Task being implemented (MFAP ID 1162)*

- Action II.A.1 – Assess all existing, publicly held land for its suitability for agriculture and make more of it available for agriculture.
- Task 1162 – Support municipalities in developing their own farmland licensing agreements and plans.

Implementing Partners

- Lead – World Farmers
- Other – Massachusetts Food System Collaborative
- Contact email – Jessy Gill, farmland@worldfarmers.org

** Note: Two FPP projects implementing one task*



Education for municipalities about indigenous and local foodways

FPP Project (WF 2.4) (Nipmuc homelands within Massachusetts)

- Design and host a municipally-focused workshop series on indigenous foodways to educate municipal decision-makers about the benefits of hyper local food production.

MFAP Task being implemented (MFAP ID 1395)

- Action II.A.1 – Assess all existing, publicly held land for its suitability for agriculture and make more of it available for agriculture.
- Task 1395 – Educate city and town decision-makers about the benefits of hyper local food production and its connection with climate change and food access. Include information about tools to encourage it, including community gardens and land licensing.

Implementing Partners

- Lead – Nipmuc Indian Development Corporation (NIDC)
- Others - None
- Contact email – Erica Campbell elcampbell@nippi.org



Case Study Research on Shared Land Tenure Models

FPP Project (NE 2.1) (Statewide)

- Research 10–15 diverse shared land tenure models.
- Write a synthesized report to summarize lessons and inform future models and advocacy.

MFAP Task being implemented (MFAP ID 1192)*

- Action II.A.4 – Increase the amount of privately leased farmland, coupled with agreements designed to meet the needs of farmers.
- Task 1192 – Explore novel, alternative methods of land tenure to meet the needs of beginning, BIPOC, and other historically underserved communities with limited equity or credit.

Implementing Partners

- Lead – New Entry Sustainable Farming Project
- Other – Nuestras Raíces, Pocasset Pokanoket Land Trust (PPLT), Growing Places
- Contact email – Colleen Hanley, colleen.hanley@tufts.edu

** Note: Two FPP projects implementing one task*



Pilot implementation of Shared Land Tenure Site

FPP Project (NE 2.2) (Central Massachusetts)

- Pilot shared tenure site with historically underserved farmers.
- Develop operational models, land use agreements and a training curriculum on regenerative practices for climate adaptation.

MFAP Task being implemented (MFAP ID 1192)*

- Action II.A.4 – Increase the amount of privately leased farmland, coupled with agreements designed to meet the needs of farmers.
- Task 1192 – Explore novel, alternative methods of land tenure to meet the needs of beginning, BIPOC, and other historically underserved communities with limited equity or credit.

Implementing Partners

- Lead – Growing Places
- Other – New Entry Sustainable Farming Project (New Entry), Nuestras Raíces
- Contact email – Tony Beattie, robinwoodfarm@gmail.com

** Note: Two FPP projects implementing one task*



Educate farmers on transfer planning

FPP Project (LFG 2.1) (Statewide)

- Share information with farmers on transfer planning models, case studies and best practices
- Technical assistance for farmers and organizations that support farmers on transfer planning.

MFAP Task being implemented (MFAP ID 1203)

- Action II.B.1 – Support and expand farmland transfer and farmland succession education and one-to-one technical assistance (TA).
- Task 1203 – Share information with farmers on transfer planning models, case studies, and best practices.

Implementing Partners

- Lead – Land For Good
- Other – None
- Contact email – Shema Blum-Evitts, info@landforgood.org



Promote land linking

FPP Project (LFG 2.2) (Statewide)

- Increase awareness and promote farmland linking and listing tools such as New England Farmland Finder.
- Develop and host webinars on availability of New England Farmland Finder and how it works.

MFAP Task being implemented (MFAP ID 1208)

- Action II.B.1 – Support and expand farmland transfer and farmland succession education and one-to-one technical assistance (TA).
- Task 1208 – Increase awareness and promotion of farmland linking and listing tools such as New England Farmland Finder.

Implementing Partners

- Lead – Land For Good
- Other – None
- Contact email – Shema Blum-Evitts, info@landforgood.org



Build DEI capacity across food system partners

Farmland Partnership Program Factsheet
Last revised – 12/1/2025
Project – NE 2.3
Lead partner – Pocasset Pokanoket Land Trust (PPLT)
MFAP Task – 1231
Page number – 1

FPP Project (NE 2.3) (Partner service areas in eastern, southern and western MA)

- Lead DEI trainings for technical assistance providers.
- Conduct statewide audit of land access, conservation and farmland retention programs
- Recruit and train a cohort of BIPOC technical service providers.

MFAP Task being implemented (MFAP ID 1231)

- Action II.C.2 – Increase access to public lands for agriculture, while prioritizing Historically Underserved Farmers.
- Task 1231 – Work with non-profits and community groups focused on equity and diversity to strengthen and amplify outreach.

Implementing Partners

- Lead – Pocasset Pokanoket Land Trust (PPLT)
- Other – Nuestras Raíces, New Entry Sustainable Farming Project (New Entry)
- Contact email – Michelle Nikfarjam, michelle@pocassetlandtrust.org

Q&A on access projects

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Next steps and closing

Next steps

Follow up from today

- Katharine will be compiling notes about what was presented, as well as what was submitted via mentimeter
- Katharine will send questions and comments to each project lead.

Takeaways

- Unresolved discussion
- Agenda topics for next time
- Other observations

Next meeting

- Likely in person
- Date to be determined via doodle poll
- More details to come shortly

Before you leave

- Please add your name and email to your mentimeter – in case there are follow ups
- Add any agenda topic suggestions

Any questions?

For any questions after today, please email them to

Katharine.s.otto@mass.gov

