

MA Farmland Action Plan – Drop-In Session for Potential Partners

Notes from online discussion on 3/2/2026

Context

On Monday, March 2, 2026 at 12pm Katharine Otto hosted a drop-in session for potential partners (people who may help with implementation of the plan). The meeting had no presentation – instead the content was guided by questions and comments from attendees. The drop in sessions are organized as an easy way to connect in, anticipating that recent discussions and new resources may have sparked additional thoughts. The primary audience was potential partners.

Facilitator – Katharine Otto, Farmland Action Plan Coordinator, MDAR. Katharine.s.otto@mass.gov

The following is a brief summary of the conversation that occurred during the drop-in session.

Some notes regarding the comments and questions:

- Some have been edited or combined.
- Comments have been collated by topics, in no particular order
- These comments are from voluntary participants in open discussion. These comments may or may not align with positions of MDAR or the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Discussion notes

The following is a brief summary of some of the conversation that occurred in the chat box during the meeting as well as some of the oral comments. It includes links and resources shared with participants.

Veterans who farm or wish to farm

- Challenges veterans face – barriers of entry, cost of land, need for navigator roles, transferrable skills and career counseling, previous chain-of-command structure influence future expectations and/or needs
- Connections to other partners
- Building up connections with veteran farmers across MA

Opportunities to connect and learn more

- MFAP newsletter
- Farm and Market Report
- Farmland Partnership Program webpage and factsheets