

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

Notes from online discussion on 4/15/2026

Context

On Wednesday, April 15, 2026 at 11am 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.

Bringing awareness of state's interest in protecting farmland to farmers

- Bring MFAP and resources to farmers – Information about types of protection, Chapter 61A, Protect your legacy resource, farm energy grant programs, farm viability grants and other resources
- Challenges – lack of trust in government, how dwellings fit into protected farmland, newer farmers don't want the larger acreages that older farmers have – could they be subdivided?
- Need – 4 page resource for farmers based on farmland protection and the MFAP

Opportunities to connect and learn more

- MFAP newsletter
- Farmland Partnership Program webpage and factsheets
- MLTC Quarterly Ag Network meeting