

# Farmland Action Plan – Email Update – January 2025

## Implementation matrix available online

Hello!

Welcome to another email update for implementation of the [Massachusetts Farmland Action Plan 2023-2050](#) (MFAP). This month focuses on the release of the implementation matrix.

We are still building our contact lists for implementing the Plan. Please share this email with your contacts and listservs! Email Katharine to sign up to get these email updates directly – [Katharine.s.otto@mass.gov](mailto:Katharine.s.otto@mass.gov).

## Implementation matrix published online

The Farmland Action Plan implementation matrix contains all the goals, strategies, action items, implementation objectives, and tasks from the 2023 Plan.

Thank you to all the potential partners and interested individuals who have provided input on the matrix both directly and indirectly over the last few months. Together we have translated a static document into a working road map for us to walk together in the months and years to come. Some parts of that road map may need further refinements and additions as we work together and learn more, but for now we have a good idea of how we are already moving and some of the next steps. So let us move forward together into implementation!

The matrix represents a review of the items from the Plan in an effort to:

- Identify a potential timeline for implementation
- Identify lead and other potential implementers
- Clarify language to ensure clear understanding of item
- Check whether additional tasks are needed to assist with implementation of actions

The matrix is a living document that tracks what partners have done and what partners plan to do. Many potential partners have provided input on the matrix in the last few months. We anticipate additional refinements in 2025. From 2026 onwards we anticipate the matrix will continue to evolve to reflect implementation progress but at a slower pace. You can propose edits or new items for the matrix by filling out the new Matrix Feedback Portal Form on the [Farmland Action Plan webpage](#).

Visit the January 2025 version of the Implementation Matrix and learn more on the [Farmland Action Plan webpage](#).

## MDAR given authority to acquire land

On November 20, Governor Healey signed Mass Leads: An Act Relative to Strengthening Massachusetts' Economic Leadership, more informally known as the economic development bill.

Among many other activities, the bill directs MDAR to establish a program to acquire land and make it affordable and accessible to farmers. Prior to this, MDAR did not have the authority to purchase land in fee, and having that capacity was one of the priority recommendations from the Farmland Action Plan (see tasks 1042, 1033 and 1043). This will be an important tool in helping mitigate farmland loss, and will allow the department to move quickly to purchase farmland when it becomes available for sale and apply permanent restrictions to ensure it does not convert to other uses in the future. For more information contact [Gerard.kennedy@mass.gov](mailto:Gerard.kennedy@mass.gov)

## How can I find out more about the plan?

The MFAP is a big plan! There are lots of strategies, actions and tasks – and all the supporting information needed to support those. The full plan is available online at [www.mass.gov/farmland-action-plan](http://www.mass.gov/farmland-action-plan)

Over the last month the website has also gained several [additional resources](#) to explain the plan, focusing on specific topics and audiences. More will be coming in the coming weeks and months.

### For more information

Farmland Action Plan Webpage  
[www.mass.gov/farmland-action-plan](http://www.mass.gov/farmland-action-plan)

### For questions, please reach out to

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