

The presentation portion of this webinar will be recorded and posted online alongside the slides on the [Farmland Action Plan](#) and [Farmland Partnership Webpages](#). Please keep your video off and your microphone muted for the presentation portion. The Q&A portion will not be recorded.

# MFAP 2025 Progress Report and Farmland Partnership Overview

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Online webinar

Thursday, January 15, 2026 at noon

Katharine Otto, Farmland Action Plan Coordinator



# Agenda and Goals

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## Agenda

- ❖ What is the Farmland Action Plan (MFAP)?
- ❖ 2025 MFAP Progress Report Overview
- ❖ Farmland Partnership Program Overview
- ❖ FY2026 Farmland Partnership Projects
- ❖ Next steps
- ❖ Questions & Answers

## Today's Goals

- ❖ Understand how the MFAP is being implemented, including progress made in 2025
- ❖ Introduce the new Farmland Partnership Program and the projects that will be starting soon

# About the Farmland Action Plan

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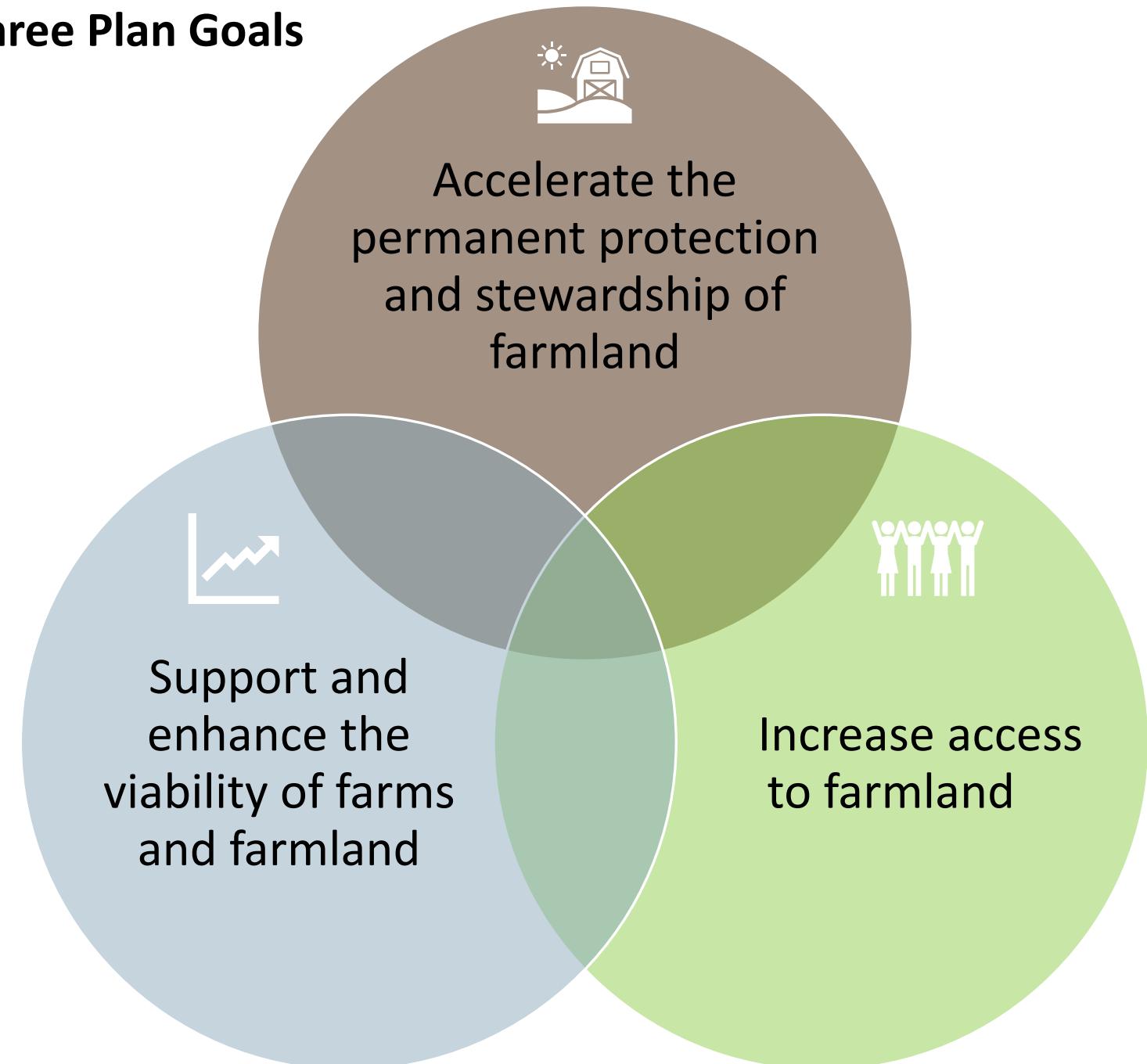
Quick update

For more updates, visit short videos and resources at  
[www.mass.gov/farmland-action-plan](http://www.mass.gov/farmland-action-plan)

# What is the Farmland Action Plan?

- State funded
- State coordinated
- Long range strategic initiative
- Statewide, not just for state government
- [www.mass.gov/farmland-action-plan](http://www.mass.gov/farmland-action-plan)

## Three Plan Goals



# Overview of the implementation matrix

The matrix is a living document that tracks

- Next steps to address needs and challenges
- what partners have done, and
- what partners plan to do.

Published online at  
[www.mass.gov/farmland-action-plan](http://www.mass.gov/farmland-action-plan)  
with updates published as needed

Sort, filter and search for keywords – eg  
“food”, “municipality”, “policy”

4-digit unique ID number



# Important features for implementation

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## Building partnerships and collaboration

Reducing silos and building shared understanding

Farmland Partnership Program

## Evolving approach

Look to the future while learning from the past and other programs

Implementation Matrix - rooted in the Plan, but adjusts as needed

## Engagement

MFAP newsletter

Drop-In Sessions

Events and meetings focus on specific tasks

Webpage resources

# 2025 Progress Report

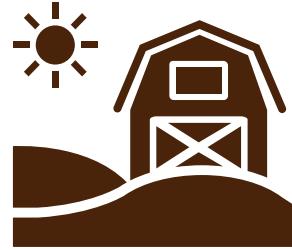
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Full progress report available in “Updates and Progress Reports”  
part of [www.mass.gov/farmland-action-plan](http://www.mass.gov/farmland-action-plan)

# 2025 Highlights

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1. Start the Farmland Partnership Program
2. Leverage federal funding to protect farmland
3. Leverage non-federal funding to protect farmland
4. Build capacity of entities to protect farmland
5. Build awareness and capacity of municipalities to protect farmland
6. Increase awareness of farmland protection programs
7. Increase applications to farmland protection programs
8. Prioritize protection of whole farms
9. Build state farmland licensing program
10. Expand farmland transfer and succession education and technical assistance



# Highlight 3 – Leverage non-federal funding to protect farmland

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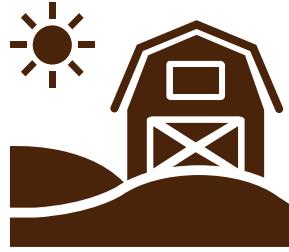
New highlight for 2025, as companion to Highlight 2 (Leverage federal funding to protect land).

## Why is this important?

- Farmland protection uses a variety of funding sources – federal, state, local and private.
- With the changes to the federal environment since early 2025 it has become more important to diversify funding sources to support farmland protection.

Examples of non-federal funding sources

- [APR Program](#) by MDAR
- [Community Preservation Act \(CPA\) Funding](#)
- [Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Program](#) by EEA
- [Landscape Partnership Program](#) by DCS
- [Conservation Partnership Program](#) by DCS
- [Local Acquisitions for Natural Diversity \(LAND\) Grant Program](#) by DCS
- [Tribal Land Acquisition Grant](#) by DCS



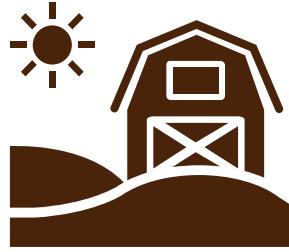
# Highlight 4 – Build capacity of entities to protect farmland

## Why is this important?

- Many groups can protect agricultural land. Building capacity of state agencies, land trusts, municipalities and other entities will mean more staff are able to work on and complete agreements to protect land.

### 2025 Progress – Creating a Buy-Protect-Sell Program at MDAR

- MDAR began researching and developing ideas for a new Buy-Protect-Sell program.
- MDAR hired a new Agricultural Land Use Planner who is working to get the program up and running.
- MDAR hosted the first presentation and discussion for interested individuals to provide input to help shape the program.



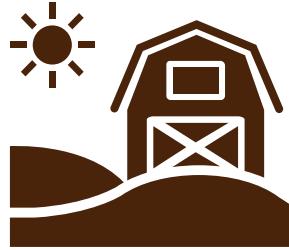
# Highlight 5 – Build awareness and capacity of municipalities to protect farmland

## Why is this important?

- Municipalities can hold restrictions/ easements on protected farmland like MDAR, land trusts and other entities.
- Municipalities also have additional opportunities to get involved with protecting farmland under Chapter 61A Right of First Refusal process (ROFR).

## 2025 Progress – Supporting AgComs

- Agricultural Commissions (“AgComs”) serve as a local voice advocating for farmers and agriculturally-related interests.
- MDAR has contracted with Conservation Works to manage AgCom outreach, educational and technical assistance to municipalities and existing AgComs.
- Conservation Works are also developing a plan to support AgComs on an ongoing basis, based on the needs and concerns they encounter.
- Learn more on [MDAR AgCom webpage](#).



# Highlight 6 – Build awareness of farmland protection programs

## Why is this important?

- For each farm there can be different needs for the landowner and organization involved in protecting land for agriculture – so it is important to find funding sources and mechanisms that have features that match those needs.

### 2025 Progress – Encouraging more Private APRs with new guidance

- [New private APR guidance](#) has been developed to better educate partners about MDAR's policy on approving private APRs.
- New [Private APR webpage](#) includes video introduction to guidance and process

### 2025 Progress – New Massachusetts Farmland Guide

- American Farmland Trust released [Massachusetts Farmland Protection Options: A Guide for Landowners, Land Trusts, and Municipalities.](#)



# Highlight 9 – Build state farmland licensing program

## Why is this important?

- Land licenses are a useful, low-cost mechanism for farmers to access land.

## Where can I learn more?

- [State-Owned Farmland Licensing Program webpage](#)

### 2024 Progress – Updates to applications for licensing state owned land

- Smaller parcels available to farmers
- Request more detail about experience and capacity of farmer applicants
- Priority established for Historically Underserved Farmers

### 2025 Progress – Infrastructure upgrades for farming on state owned land

- MDAR utilized over \$1 million to field restorations, sign installation, road maintenance, new irrigation and utility infrastructure.



# Highlight 10 – Expand farmland transfer and succession education and technical support

## Why is this important?

- To ensure that farmland stays in active farming as the existing farmer passes their business and land to the next generation of farmers.

### 2025 Progress – New Farm-Pass Program

- In 2024 MDAR launched the new Farm-Pass Program which provides direct assistance to help MA farm owners pass their farm on to the next generation.
- Three farms have completed farm transfer plans and eight farms have planning processes underway.
- Learn more on MDAR's [Agricultural Business Assistance webpage](#).

### 2025 Workshops – Planning for the future of your farm

- MDAR allocated resources and provided funding for the coordination of three public workshops for farmers across the state to discuss a range of farm planning resources.

# Coming soon! Save the date!

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## **2026 APR Listening Sessions**

Every three years MDAR conducts a series of regional public listening sessions to assess the effectiveness of the APR Program.

In March 2026, listening sessions are scheduled to take place in person in Hadley, Shrewsbury and Lakeville. Two virtual sessions are also scheduled.

*Learn more on [APR Program Review webpage](#).*

## **2026 Urban Farming Symposium**

On March 28, 2026, MDAR and The Urban Farming Institute will partner to bring robust learning opportunities, specialists and networking opportunities at the MA Urban Farming Symposium.

*Learn more on the [MDAR Urban Agriculture Webpage](#).*

# Farmland Partnership Program

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More information, including Project Factsheets, available at  
[www.mass.gov/info-details/farmland-partnership-program](http://www.mass.gov/info-details/farmland-partnership-program)

# New Farmland Partnership Program

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**Grant program to help implement the Farmland Action Plan at the local, regional and statewide level.**

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.

Learn more at [www.mass.gov/info-details/farmland-partnership-program](http://www.mass.gov/info-details/farmland-partnership-program) and get updates through the MFAP newsletter

## **Applications received (May 2025)**

- 14 applications requesting \$7.4 million
- Proposed 393 projects to implement specific tasks in the MFAP matrix.

# Key characteristics of this program

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- 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.**

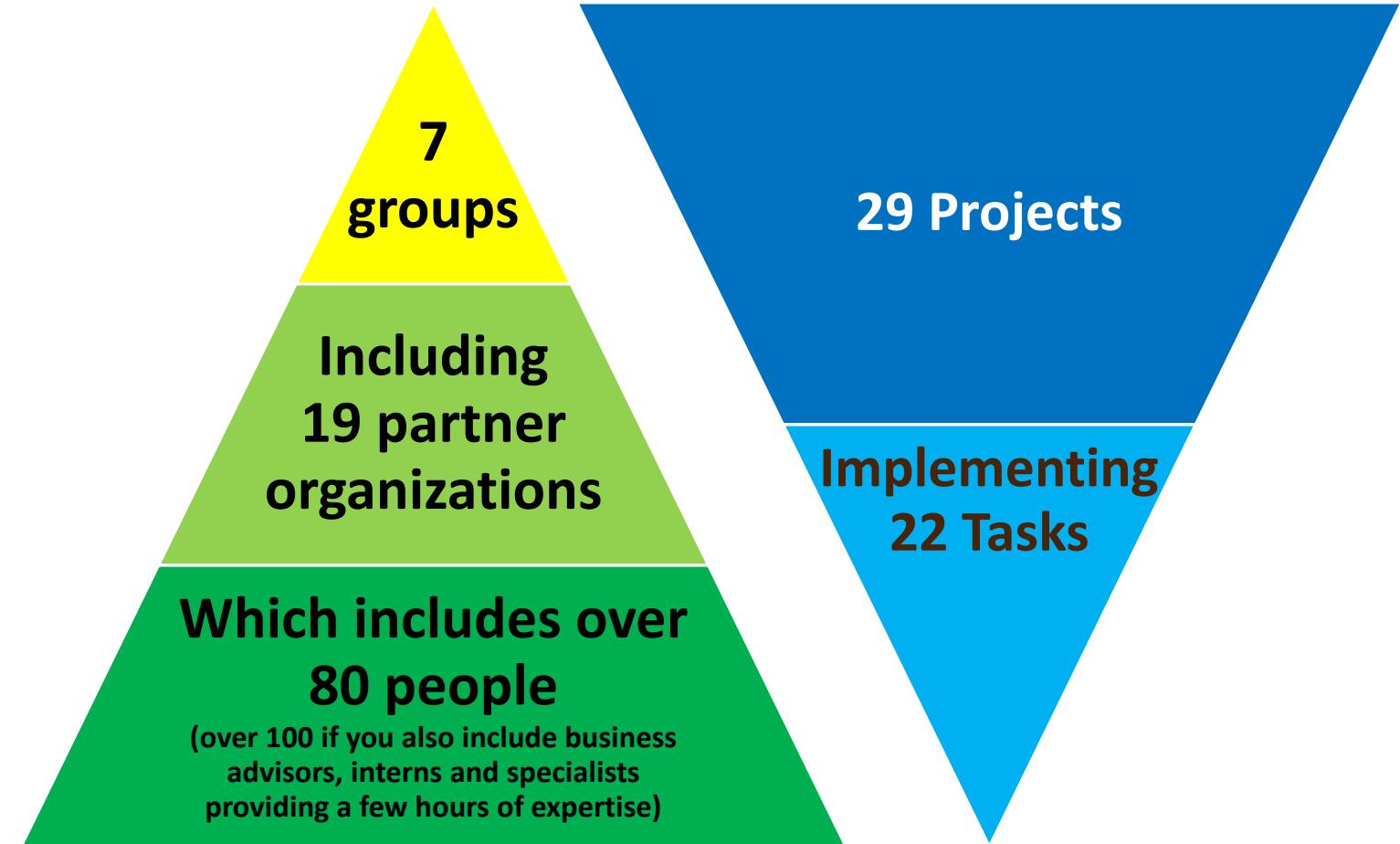
This program is not about doing things the way they've always been done. Instead, it's about reaching to do more or changing how we do things.



## 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

# Partners funded

(Organization listed in bold is the lead partner)

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- **American Farmland Trust (AFT)** with Massachusetts Land Trust Coalition (MLTC)
- **The Carrot Project (TCP)** with Southeastern Massachusetts Agricultural Partnership (SEMAP) and Community Involved in Sustaining Agriculture (CISA)
- **Franklin Regional Council of Governments (FRCOG)** with Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC) and Berkshire Regional Planning Commission (BRPC)
- **Land For Good (LFG)**
- **New Entry Sustainable Farming Project (New Entry)** with Nuestras Raíces, Pocasset Pokanoket Land Trust (PPLT) and Growing Places
- **Southeastern Regional Planning and Economic Development District (SRPEDD)** with Wildlands Trust and Old Colony Planning Council (OCPC)
- **World Farmers** with Massachusetts Food System Collaborative (MAFSC) and Nipmuc Indian Development Corporation (NIDC)

# Overview of projects

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## 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

# Project short name in a few words

## FPP Project (*Project ID*) (*Geographic area*)

- 1-2 sentences to describe scope in simple public-facing way

## MFAP Task being implemented (*MFAP ID*)

- Action *ID* and text
- Task *ID* and text

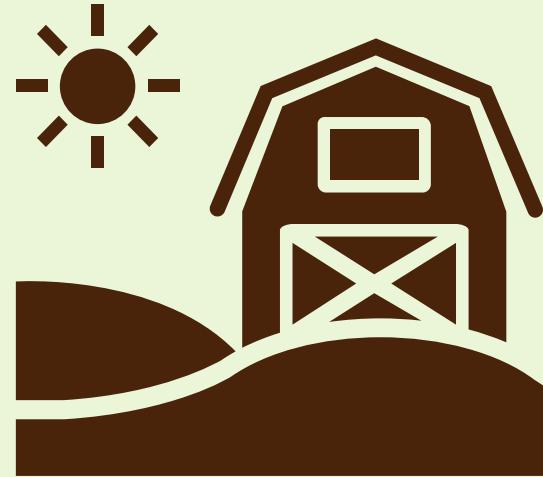
## Implementing Partners

- Lead – entity who is leading for this specific project. May not be the entity who is the “lead partner” for the entire contract
- Other – entities who are also getting involved for this specific Project. May not be all partners. May include non-partners
- Contact email – If someone has questions, who would they contact?

Farmland Partnership Program Factsheet  
Last revised – Date  
Lead partner – *Project lead*  
Project – *ID from contract*  
MFAP Task – *ID from MFAP matrix*  
Page number – 1

**Each funded project has a factsheet that follows this format and will be updated as additional information becomes available.**

**The following slides uses some key information from these factsheets to introduce the 29 projects.**

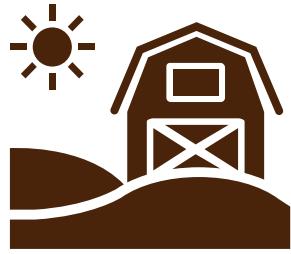


# Farmland Protection

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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**

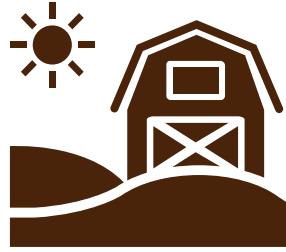
- Using CPA funds for 61A lands (Task 1114)
- Education on zoning and planning tools that reduce farmland loss (Task 1125)

## **Strategy C - Prioritize protection of whole farms**

- None this round

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

- None this round



# Building farmland protection capacity and expertise

Extract from Farmland Partnership Program Factsheet - AFT 1.1 (11/17/2025) and TCP 1.1 (12/8/2025)

## Increase pool of appraisers and surveyors

*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)*

- Task 1076 – Increase the pool of appraisers, surveyors, and other contractors.

### *Implementing Partners*

- Lead – Massachusetts Land Trust Coalition (MLTC)
- Other – None

## 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)\*\**

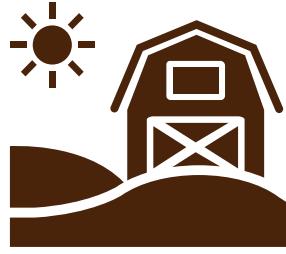
- Task 1432 – Build the capacity of restriction-holding entities to effectively identify, review, and acquire restrictions that allow agriculture.

### *Implementing Partners*

- Lead – The Carrot Project
- Other – None

\* Note: Also implementing the Resilient Lands Initiative

\*\* Note: Two FPP projects implementing one task



# Building municipal capacity to protect farmland

Extract from Farmland Partnership  
Program Factsheet - FRCOG 1.1  
(11/10/2025), SRPEDD 1.4 (11/24/2025)

## Municipal Farmland Protection Plans

*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)*

- 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)

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

## Education on zoning and planning tools that reduce farmland loss

*FPP Project (SRPEDD 1.4) (Southeast Massachusetts)*

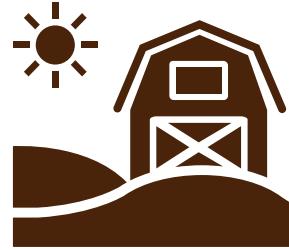
- Provide education on zoning bylaws, best practices, municipal planning documents, and policies/procures related to conservation subdivisions and compact development that supports farmland protection.

*MFAP Task being implemented (MFAP ID 1125)*

- 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)



# Chapter 61A and Right of First Refusal (ROFR)

Extracts from Farmland Partnership Program Factsheets SRPEDD 1.2, SRPEDD 1.1 and SRPEDD 1.3 (11/24/2025)

## Implementing Partners

- Lead – Southeastern Regional Planning and Economic Development District (SRPEDD)
- Other – Wildlands Trust and Old Colony Planning Council (OCPC)

## 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)\*\**

- Task 1432 – Build the capacity of restriction-holding entities to effectively identify, review, and acquire restrictions that allow agriculture.

\* Note: Also implementing the Resilient Lands Initiative

\*\* Note: Two FPP projects implementing one task

## Municipal workshops on 61A and ROFR

*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)*

- Task 1062 – Create guidance documents, websites, webinars, and other materials targeted at specific audiences on programs such as Chapter 61A, APR, and others.

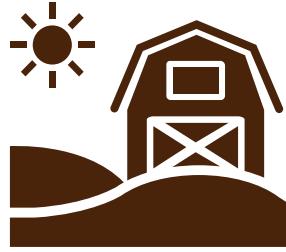
## Municipal training on 61A

*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)*

- 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.



# 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)**

- 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)



# Farmland Access

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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



# Municipal land licensing

*MFAP Task being implemented (MFAP ID 1162)\* - Support municipalities in developing their own farmland licensing agreements and plans.*

## **Education about licensing municipal lands**

*FPP Project (WF 2.1) (Greater Boston and neighboring areas)*

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

### *Implementing Partners*

- Lead – Massachusetts Food System Collaborative (MAFSC)
- Other – World Farmers, Nipmuc Indian Development Corporation (NIDC)

*\* 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.

### *Implementing Partners*

- Lead – World Farmers
- Other – Massachusetts Food System Collaborative

*\* Note: Two FPP projects implementing one task*

*MFAP Task being implemented (MFAP ID 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.*

## **Prioritize historically underserved farmers (HUF) for municipal land licensing**

*FPP Project (WF 2.2) (Greater Boston and neighboring areas)*

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

### *Implementing Partners*

- Lead – World Farmers
- Other – Massachusetts Food System Collaborative, Nipmuc Indian Development Corporation (NIDC)



# Shared Land Tenure Models

## 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)\**

- 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

*\* 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)\**

- 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

*\* Note: Two FPP projects implementing one task*



# Transfer planning and land linking

Extracts from Farmland Partnership Program Factsheets – LFG 2.1, LFG 2.2  
(11/12/2025)

## 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)*

- Task 1203 – Share information with farmers on transfer planning models, case studies, and best practices.

### *Implementing Partners*

- Lead – Land For Good
- Other – None

## 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)*

- 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



# Build DEI capacity across food system partners

## **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)**

- 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)



# Education for municipalities about indigenous and local foodways

## FPP Project (WF 2.4) (Greater Boston and neighboring areas)

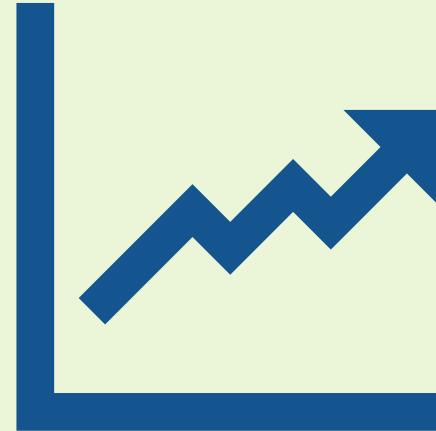
- Design and host a municipally-focused workshop series on indigenous foodways to educate municipal decision-makers about the benefits of hyper local food production.

## 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



# Farm Viability

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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)

- 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



# Train professionals who work with farmers

Extracts from Farmland Partnership Program Factsheets – LFG 3.1 (12/30/2025) and TCP 3.4 (12/8/2025)

## 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)*

- 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

## 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)*

- 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



# 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)**

- 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



# Peer mentorship and Peer-to-Peer Programs for farmers

Extracts from Farmland Partnership Program Factsheets – NE 3.1 (12/1/2025), NE 3.2 (11/18/2025), TCP 3.3 (12/8/2025)

*MFAP Task being implemented (MFAP ID 1354)\* - Explore expanding range farmer mentorship and peer-to-peer programs.*

## Regenerative peer mentorship program for beginning farmers

*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.

### *Implementing Partners*

- Lead – Pocasset Pokanoket Land Trust (PPLT)
- Other – Nuestras Raíces, New Entry Sustainable Farming Project (New Entry)

*\* Note: Three FPP projects implementing one task*

## 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.

### *Implementing Partners*

- Lead – New Entry Sustainable Farming Project (New Entry)
- Other – Nuestras Raíces, Pocasset Pokanoket Land Trust (PPLT)

*\* 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

### *Implementing Partners*

- Lead –Southeastern Massachusetts Agricultural Partnership (SEMAP)
- Other – Community Involved in Sustaining Agriculture (CISA)

*\* Note: Three FPP projects implementing one task*



# Navigators for farmers

*MFAP Task being implemented* - 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. (Task 1353)*

**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.

*Implementing Partners*

- Lead – Community Involved in Sustaining Agriculture (CISA)
- Other – The Carrot Project, Southeastern Massachusetts Agricultural Partnership (SEMAP)

*\*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.*

*... existing farmers through the process of sustaining a farming enterprise. (Task 1449)*

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

*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.

*Implementing Partners*

- Lead – New Entry Sustainable Farming Project (New Entry)
- Other – Nuestras Raíces, Pocasset Pokanoket Land Trust (PPLT), Growing Places

*\* 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.

*Implementing Partners*

- Lead – Growing Places
- Other – New Entry Sustainable Farming Project (New Entry), Pocasset Pokanoket Land Trust (PPLT)

*\* Note: Two FPP projects implementing one task*



# Culturally appropriate outreach

Extracts from Farmland Partnership  
Program Factsheets - NE 3.5  
(12/1/2025), AFT 3.2 (11/17/2025)

*MFAP Task being implemented (MFAP ID 1356)\* - Support culturally appropriate outreach by other experienced farmers of color.*

## **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.

### *Implementing Partners*

- Lead – Growing Places
- Other – New Entry Sustainable Farming Project (New Entry), Pocasset Pokanoket Land Trust (PPLT)

*\* 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.

### *Implementing Partners*

- Lead – American Farmland Trust (AFT)
- Other – None

*\* Note: Two FPP projects implementing one task*

# Next steps

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# Next steps to consider

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## Stay in the loop

- Sign up for newsletter –  
<https://mailchi.mp/mass.gov/farmland-action-plan-updates>
- Farmland Action Plan Webpage  
[www.mass.gov/farmland-action-plan](http://www.mass.gov/farmland-action-plan)
- Farmland Partnership Program Webpage  
[www.mass.gov/info-details/farmland-partnership-program](http://www.mass.gov/info-details/farmland-partnership-program)
  - Factsheets will be updated periodically

## Get involved

- Bring questions to MFAP Drop In Sessions
- Look out for opportunities to get involved – shared in MFAP newsletter

# Comments/ Questions?

The recording will  
now be turned off.



Sign up for newsletter – <https://mailchi.mp/mass.gov/farmland-action-plan-updates>

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

Farmland Partnership Program Webpage [www.mass.gov/info-details/farmland-partnership-program](http://www.mass.gov/info-details/farmland-partnership-program)

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