

Frequently Asked Questions

Legacy Challenge

Support AFT Today. Leave a Legacy for Tomorrow.

Document a legacy gift with AFT, and a \$1,000 gift will be made in your honor to support the NY & NJ Region today.

What is a Legacy Gift?

A legacy gift is a gift you plan to make to American Farmland Trust (AFT) in the future, often through your estate or financial plans. Legacy gifts can take many forms, including a bequest in your will or trust, a beneficiary designation on a retirement account or life insurance policy, or other planned giving arrangements such as a charitable gift annuity, charitable remainder trust, or retained life estate.

What types of gifts qualify for the Legacy Challenge?

A variety of planned gifts can qualify for the Legacy Challenge, including:

- **Bequests:** Include American Farmland Trust in your will or living trust.
- **Beneficiary designations:** Name AFT as a beneficiary of a life insurance policy, retirement account, or other payable-on-death (POD) designation.
- **Charitable gift annuities:** Establish a charitable gift annuity with AFT, providing you with fixed payments for life in exchange for your charitable gift.
- **Charitable trusts:** Name AFT as a beneficiary of a charitable remainder trust or charitable lead trust.
- **Retained life estates:** Make a gift of your home or other qualifying property while retaining the right to use it during your lifetime.

What if I have already included AFT in my will or other estate plans?

Thank you! The Legacy Challenge is designed to encourage supporters to formally document their commitment to AFT and help unlock matching funds to support farmland protection in New York and New Jersey today. If we do not already have your commitment documented, you can participate by completing the Bequest Intention Form. You may choose to share the details of your commitment or keep the amount confidential.

Do I need to disclose the amount of my gift?

You do not need to disclose the amount of your future gift. This opportunity is based on your decision to let American Farmland Trust know that you have included the organization in your plans, not on the size of your gift.

Is there a minimum gift amount?

There is no single minimum amount required to make a legacy gift to American Farmland Trust. No matter the size, your gift can make a lasting difference and help ensure that farmland remains protected and productive for generations to come.

Some planned gift arrangements, such as charitable gift annuities and charitable remainder trusts, may have minimum amounts required to establish the gift. Other arrangements, such as bequests and beneficiary designations, are more flexible and can be tailored to meet your specific goals.

Can I change or update my plans in the future?

Yes. The Bequest Intention Form is non-binding and does not create a legal obligation to make a future gift to AFT. If your plans change, we encourage you to let us know so we can keep our records up to date.

Please note that certain planned gifts are irrevocable, meaning they generally cannot be changed or revoked once established. If you are considering an irrevocable planned gift, we recommend consulting with your financial or legal advisor to understand the terms and implications.

Will my information remain confidential?

Yes. AFT respects your privacy and will keep the information you provide about your legacy gift confidential. You decide how much information you wish to share with us, including whether or not to disclose the estimated value of your future gift.

If you choose to be recognized publicly as a member of the Legacy Circle, American Farmland Trust will list your name according to your preferences. You may also choose to remain anonymous. **The amount of your legacy gift will not be publicly disclosed.**

How long is the Legacy Challenge?

The Legacy Challenge will continue through September 2027, or until the available matching funds have been fully committed, whichever comes first. We encourage you to make your legacy commitment as soon as possible to ensure your gift qualifies for the matching opportunity.

Who should I contact if I have additional questions?

Please contact Corian Branyan, Director of Planned Giving, at cbranyan@farmland.org or (202) 378-1220 with any questions about the Legacy Challenge or your legacy gift. All inquiries are confidential and without obligation. We are happy to answer your questions and help you explore your options.