

Berkshire Farmland Conservation & Farmland Access Resources

Resources for farmers and landowners in Berkshire County on how to access, finance, conserve, protect, and improve practices on farmland. You can access this document through our website:

<https://farmland.org/berkshire-farm-futures/>

If you'd like to add something to this list, please email Jamie Potters jpotters@farmland.org

Finding Land or Making Land Available for Farming

New England Farmland Finder :

NEFF makes it easy for properties to be posted, and for farm seekers to search for them. The site's format is like "for sale by owner" sites or classified listings.

Land For Good:

If you're a beginning farmer exploring your options to get onto land, or an established farmer ready to expand, relocate or rethink your land situation, this [Resource Page](#) offers guides, worksheets, articles and other resources to inform your decision-making and guide your planning and search for farmland. You can also [sign up for advising with a staff member](#), or email Jae directly (Jae@landforgood.org).

Watch our November 2, 2022 virtual Berkshire Land Access workshop recording:

[Strategies for Finding, Affording, and Securing Farmland in Berkshire County](#)

Some additional Land For Good resources:

- [Necessary/Desirable/Optional worksheet](#) (or email Jae to get a spreadsheet version!)
- [Elements Of A Good Farm Lease](#) (email Jae for a fillable plain language lease outline!)
- [Build A Lease Tool](#)
- [Farmland Access Methods Guide](#)
- [Accessing Farmland Together](#)
- [Obteniendo Tierras Juntos](#)

- **Mapping:**
 - [UC Davis Soil Tool](#): (For looking up soil type(s) and characteristics)



- [LFG Quick tutorial for UC Davis tool](#)
- [Google MyMaps](#) (for acreage calculation)
- [LFG quick tutorial for Google MyMaps](#)

American Farmland Trust:

[AFT's Farmland Information Center](#)

[AFT's Land Access Resources Page](#)

Beginning & Historically Underserved Farmer Resources

[MDAR Beginning Farmer Resources Page](#)

[Matching Enterprise Grants for Farmers \(MEGA\) Program](#) (viability program for beginning farmers)

[MDAR Exploring the Small Farm Dream Course](#)

[New Farmers USDA Fact Sheet](#)

[USDA Resources for Historically Underserved Farmers](#)

Support on Transfer / Succession Planning

[Land For Good:](#)

Do you have a vision for the future of your farm? Have you identified a successor? Do you need help figuring out where to start? Land For Good offers one-on-one assistance, as well as this [Resource Page](#) with guides, workbooks, and webinars to get you started. You can [sign up for advising with a staff member](#) or to attend a Farm Succession School.

If you are interested in attending **MDAR and LFG's Farm Succession School in Pittsfield this winter, please register by January 17, 2024.** You can find the workshop info and registration [here](#).

Options for Conserving Your Land

[Berkshire Natural Resources Council](#)

[Sheffield Land Trust](#)

[MDAR—Agricultural Preservation Restriction Program \(APR\)](#)

[Berkshire Community Land Trust](#)

[Williamstown Rural Lands](#)

[Agricultural Conservation Easement Program \(ACEP\) Agricultural Land Easements \(ALE\)](#)

[Conservation Works LLC](#)

Great resource: [Your Land, Your Legacy Booklet: Landowner Stories](#)



Great film highlighting the need for farmland protection in Williamstown:

<https://vimeo.com/554808492>

Current Use/Chapter 61

[Chapter 61 Current Use Tax Programs](#)

[Chapter 61 Guidebook](#)

Resources for Improving On-Farm Practices

[Natural Resource Conservation Service \(NRCS\)—Pittsfield Office](#)

[Berkshire Conservation District](#)

[BCD: No-till Seeder Drill Rentals](#)

Farm Financing & Lending Resources

[MDAR Grants and Financial Assistance page](#)

[Berkshire Ag Ventures](#)

[AFT's New England Farmer Microgrants Program \(NEFMP\)](#)

[Farm Credit East](#)

[Farm Service Agency](#)

- [FSA Loans](#)

[The Carrot Project](#)

[Dirt Capital Partners](#)

[AFT's Farmland Information Center--Find Capital](#)

Marketing & Other Support Services

[Berkshire Grown](#)

[Berkshire Farm Bureau](#)

Legal Resources

[Legal Food Hub](#)

[Farmland Access Legal Toolkit](#)

Tools for Making Your Community Farm Friendly

[Berkshire Regional Planning Commission](#)

[Community Preservation Committee](#)

[Right to Farm/Ag Comm](#)

[AFT's Farmland Information Center--Planning for Agriculture](#)