



Midwest Policy Priorities

For over 40 years, American Farmland Trust has directed on-the-ground efforts to improve the quality of farms and the environment with farmers, stakeholders, and policy makers. The Midwest is a global leader in agricultural production. The importance of this land and how it informs place, community, and the environment, inspire AFT's work across the Midwest to save it - not just by the acre but also by the inch.

We believe that farms and farm communities are part of the solution to our biggest challenges. AFT is dedicated to protecting agricultural lands, promoting environmentally sound farming practices, and keeping farmers on the land.

Our work focuses on engagement with farmers, landowners, and conservation partners to improve the health of our soils and protect our waters through the implementation of best management conservation practices.

We are dedicated to working with partners to find solutions to these problems in a comprehensive and holistic manner.

By expanding regenerative agriculture practices, land protection, land access, and farm viability we can create a healthy and resilient Midwest.

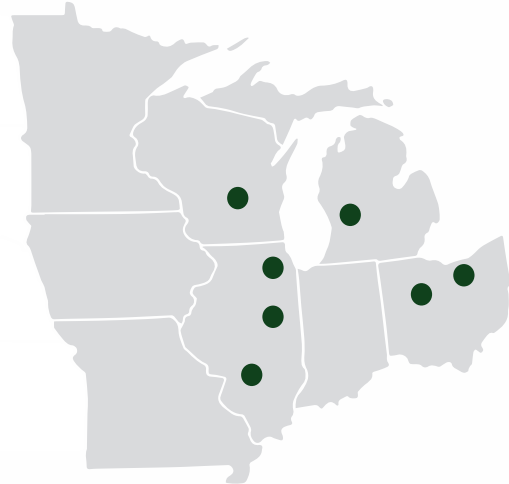


*THE REGION IS HOME TO
OVER 200 MILLION
ACRES OF CROP LAND
AND PRODUCES BILLIONS
OF DOLLARS OF FOOD
AND AGRICULTURAL
GOODS EVERY YEAR.*



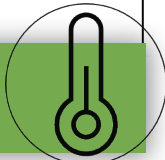
BOOTS ON THE GROUND

- Wisconsin Farmland Protection
- Michigan Pollinators Project
- Ohio and Kansas Soil Health for Dairy Suppliers
- Ohio Upper Scioto River Watershed
- Illinois Fall Covers Spring Savings
- Illinois Vermilion Headwaters Watershed
- Illinois Upper Macoupin Creek Watershed



Midwest croplands have the potential to sequester carbon and remove millions of tons of excess greenhouse gases from the atmosphere. Prioritizing climate action is not yet a major part of agricultural programs in the region. Climate goals can be integrated into existing cost share, grants, and other supports on croplands in ways that also protect soils, clean water, and bolster agricultural production.

PRIORITIZING CLIMATE ACTION



Cover Crops are one of the most effective ways to reduce nutrient losses from croplands and protect soil health. However, they are currently being planted on only a small percentage of Midwest Cropland. Innovative programs like the Illinois Fall Covers for Spring Savings offer a unique way to offer a small incentive with a big impact.

EXPANDING THE ADOPTION OF COVER CROPS



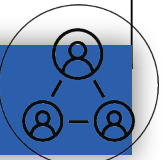
As farmland throughout the region is under threat, so too are the many benefits that farms provide. Midwest states can adopt a suite of tools and policies to better protect farmland. This includes expanding programs that provide land access to beginning and new farmers, and which provide additional assistance to historically marginalized and discriminated populations.

PROTECTING AT-RISK LAND



State-level programs provide critical funding to farmers and technical assistance partners like conservation districts. However, we still need new investment to protect Midwest farmland. Outcomes driven funding approaches, smart incentives, public private partnerships, and climate finance all do that and we are committed to finding creative ways to bring new funding support to the region.

FUNDING CONSERVATION PARTNERS



For over 40 years, the mission of **American Farmland Trust** has been to protect farmland, promote sound farming practices, and keep farmers on the land. AFT is a leader in working side-by-side with farmers and landowners to accelerate adoption of conservation practices.

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