

## **Charitable Lead Trusts**

## **Help AFT Now and Your Heirs Later**

A charitable lead trust transfers the income from trust assets to American Farmland Trust for life or a term of years, after which the assets become available to you or your heirs. This enables you to immediately contribute to supporting farmland conservation and later leave your heir's assets at greatly reduced tax rates. This impactful financial strategy allows you to provide for your loved ones while significantly contributing to AFT's mission of protecting farmland.

## **How It Works**



- Trust Assets Distribution: Trust assets are often distributed at significantly reduced gift and estate tax rates. Depending on rates at the date of funding, you or your heirs can also receive significant appreciation in these assets with no additional tax consequences.
- Transfer Assets: You transfer assets to a trustee of your choice and create a charitable lead trust.
- **Investment of Trust Assets:** The trustee invests the trust assets. The taxation and benefits vary depending on the specific type of lead trust you establish.
- Payments to AFT: The trust makes payments (either a fixed percentage of the principal or a fixed dollar amount, depending on the type of trust) to the American Farmland Trust for life or a term of years.
- **Remaining Principal:** When the trust terminates, the remaining principal is paid to you or your heirs.
- This way, you can contribute to American Farmland Trust's mission of protecting farmland while securing a financial advantage for you or your loved ones.

## **How You Benefit**

• Tax Benefits: You may be able to reduce your gift or estate taxes, as the tax benefits vary based on the type of trust you create. This potentially significant financial advantage can substantially impact your estate planning.

- **Avoid Additional Taxes:** You avoid taxes from all appreciation on assets held within the trust. This means any increase in the value of your assets within the trust won't be subject to additional taxation.
- **Flexible Payments:** You often may be able to set the amount and term of the payments to reduce or even eliminate transfer taxes when the principal reverts to you or your heirs. This provides flexibility and control in your financial planning.
- Immediate Impact: You have the satisfaction of making a significant gift to American Farmland Trust now, which reduces the taxes due on transfers to you or your heirs later. Your contribution supports AFT's mission of protecting farmland, creating a lasting legacy, and a profound impact on preserving America's farmland.