

Connecting Farmers with the Land Retreat – DRAFT AGENDA

DATE: Sunday November 15th

LOCATION: TBD

DESCRIPTION:

Join us for a day of conversations and presentations on farmland access, farmland stewardship, and farm transitions. This event will bring together retiring farmers (and mid-career farmers), farmland seekers, and non-operating farmland owners. We will explore topics including cooperative farming and land access, conservation and environmental stewardship, legal considerations, and equitable land access. We'll work through key questions including:

- How can landowners steward their land for economic, environmental, and social good while strengthening local and regional food systems?
- How do young farmers find and afford farmland?
- How can leases be structured for long-term agroforestry projects?
- What steps can retiring farmers take to plan for the future of their farm and transition their land to the next generation of farmers?
- How can cooperative land access and cooperative farming help address the challenges of land access and farmland affordability in Tompkins County?

We'll hear from farmers and landowners who have successfully addressed these key questions, as well as from experts from across the state. Come be part of the conversation and the solution. Dive deep into specific strategies and make lasting connections that will help our community provide affordable farmland access for a new generation of farmers. This event is brought to you with generous funding from the American Farmland Trust, and in close partnership with Khuba International and Groundswell Center for Local Food and Farming.

DRAFT AGENDA

(Note: the following abbreviations are used to note who the target audience is for each topic. RF=Retiring Farmer, FS = Farmer Seeker, NOL = Non-operating Landowner)

9am coffee and arrival

9:30am to 10:30am

- 1) Welcome and Framing for the day
 - Juliana Quaresma, Groundswell Center for Local Food and Farming
 - Providence Farm Collective Keynote on Land Access and Land Justice

10:30am to noon

Room 1: Cooperative Land Access Discussion (RF, FS)

- Rock Steady Farm - Maggie Cheney
- Thistle Mint Farm
- Providence Farm Collective

Room 2: Farmland Owner Discussion: Stewarding your land for economic, Environmental, and Social Good (NOL)

- Eugene Kwak and Helene Marsh from Hudson Valley Farmland Stewards

12pm to 1:30pm Lunch

1:30pm to 2:30pm

Room 1: Legal Structures for Cooperative Farms and Cooperative Land Access (NOL, RF, FS)

- Jack Hornickel, Pace University Farm and Food Business Law Clinic

Room 2: Leasing Land to Farmers: Optimizing Conservation and Tax Benefits (NOL)

- Paul Gier, Soil and Water Conservation District
- Crystal Buck, Cornell Cooperative Extension Tompkins

2:30pm to 3:30pm

Room 1: Farm Transition Discussion (RF, FS)

- Thor Oechsner - Oechsner Farms
- Maryrose Livingston – Northland Sheep Dairy
- Bob Touri - Nook and Cranny Farm

Room 2: Farm Leases: Best Practices and Novel Strategies (NOL, FS)

- Jack Hornickel, Pace University Farm and Food Business Law Clinic

3:30pm to 4pm Break

4pm to 5pm

Room 1: Land Access and Legacy Planning through Farmland Protection (NOL, FS, RF)

- Crystal Buck, CCE Tompkins Farmland Protection Educator
- Thor Oechsner - FPIG grant awardee and local farmer/landowner

Room 2: Holistic Goal Setting and Decision-Making (FS, RF)

- Bari Zeiger, CCE Erie County
- Ignacio Villa, AFT

5 to 5:30pm – Wrap up, Reflection, and Next Steps



Cornell Cooperative Extension
Tompkins County