Connecting Farmers with the Land Retreat – DRAFT AGENDA

DATE: Sunday November 15th

LOCATION: Cayuga Nature Center, 1420 Taughannock Blvd, Ithaca, NY 14850

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
    - Peter Aaron Konuma, Silver Tree Forest Farm

10:30am to noon

Room 1: Cooperative Land Access Discussion (RF, FS)
- Rock Steady Farm - Maggie Cheney
- Thistle Mint Farm
- Jay Smith, Khuba International

- Ignacio Villa, American Farmland Trust

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

- Eugene Kwak from Hudson Valley Farmland Stewards
- Crystal Buck, CCE Tompkins

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: Pathways to Farmland Ownership (FS)

- Juliana Quaresma, Groundswell Center for Local Food and Farming
- Erin Humphrey Konuma and Peter Aaron Konuma, Silver Tree Forest Farm
- Ricardo Orellana, farmer

2:30 to 2:45 Break

2:45pm to 3:45pm

Room 1: Farm Transition Discussion (RF, FS)

- Thor Oechsner, Oechsner Farms
- Maryrose Livingston, Northland Sheep Dairy
- Crystal

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

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

3:45pm 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 and farmer
- Ignacio Villa, American Farmland Trust

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

American Farmland Trust

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Cornell Cooperative Extension Tompkins County