



Farmland Advisors:

A Training Program about Farmland Access and Farm Transfers

The transfer of farms to a new generation is one of the biggest challenges facing agriculture in the Northeast. If you want to be an effective resource in helping farmers and farmland owners as they seek access to land and navigate the complexity of farm transfers, the new *Farmland Advisors* training program may be for you!

American Farmland Trust and Land For Good are offering this exciting two-year training program beginning in 2013. The *Farmland Advisors* program will offer up to 80 participants from New York and New England the opportunity to join a network of agricultural and conservation professionals to learn about:

- Farm transfer and succession planning
- Financial, tax and legal issues in farm transfers
- Land conservation as a farm transfer strategy
- Farm linking and matching
- Farmland leasing and other tenure options
- Farmland restoration
- Farmland affordability options

Thanks to a grant from the Northeast SARE Professional Development Program, there is no tuition cost to participate. However, participants are expected to cover personal expenses to attend a regional training conference in 2013.

To be eligible, participants must be a Cooperative Extension educator, land trust staff, agricultural service provider or other professional working with farmers and farmland owners. *Farmland Advisors* will be selected via a competitive application and will be expected to complete the 2 year training program curriculum and participate in the following:

- Surveys gauging training needs and impacts of participation
- Up to 3 webinars (based on knowledge level) in the winter of 2013
- A regional conference in the fall of 2013
- Up to 3 conference calls among participants in the winter of 2014
- Assessments to track information sharing with farmers and landowners

Applications for participation in the *Farmland Advisors* training program are due by October 31st. For an application go to:

<http://www.farmland.org/programs/states/ma/new-england.asp>

For more information, please contact Diane Held at dheld@farmland.org or (716) 652-0100.