

Strategies to Find Farmland

for Farm Seekers

Preparing For Your Farmland Search – Tip Sheet

Regardless of where you are looking for farmland, we recommend that you do some planning before you start your farm search. Your chances of success are greater if you use a multi-pronged approach. Consider these tools and strategies to find farmland:

Assess your situation. Goal setting and clarity about what you need and want in a farm property are important first steps. Use the <u>Acquiring Land to Farm: Where do I start? guide</u> and included worksheet to examine your farming goals, current situation, and other considerations. <u>Acquiring Your Farm online tutorial</u> provides lessons and worksheets to help you assess your situation and systematically develop an action plan.

Farm link programs. <u>New England Farmland Finder</u> is a property posting site that helps farm seekers learn about and find available farm properties across the region. Narrow your search by using the map and filters that match certain criteria. Subscribe for free to have new property postings delivered to your Inbox.

Make and post a flyer. Showcase who you are and what kind of land you are looking. Post your flyer at conferences and meetings. Tack it to bulletin boards at your co-op, input supplier, and local farm organization. Hand it out!

Use your networks. Ask around. Put yourself out there! Inquire at your state department of agriculture, conservation district, farm bureau, cooperative extension, and trade groups. Network at conferences. Check with buy local groups, farmer training and education programs, lenders, local town boards (such as agricultural commissions), neighbors, and suppliers. Spread your word at twilight meetings, mixers, and workshops. Inform local and regional land trusts about your interests. This is where a flyer can really shine, both in hard copy and electronically.

Get assistance. New England Farm Link Collaborative, comprised of <u>Connecticut Farm</u> <u>Link</u>, <u>Maine FarmLink</u>, <u>Vermont Land Link</u>, and <u>Land For Good</u>, provides various one-on-one services to get you started and support your search. This <u>program guide</u> explains what each of these programs offer. Email these providers for assistance in the state(s) you are based in or where you are conducting your search.

- Connecticut: farmlink@ctfarmland.org
- Maine: <u>info@mainefarmlink.org</u>
- Massachusetts: info@landforgood.org

Land For Good PO Box 625, Keene, NH 03431 landforgood.org

For more, visit our <u>Toolbox for Farm Seekers</u>. © 2020

- New Hampshire: info@landforgood.org
- Rhode Island: <u>info@landforgood.org</u>
- Vermont: <u>vermontlandlink@intervale.org</u>

Work with a real estate professional. Some buyer brokers care about farming and farmland and will be motivated to help you, even if they do not know a lot about soils or farm infrastructure.

Look at other posting/listing sites. Check out MLS, Zillow, Trulia, and even Craigslist. (In New Hampshire, take a look at <u>Farms & Barns Real Estate</u>.)