

New Berkshire County Grant Program Aids Farm Transfer and Farmland Access

**** Application Deadline Extended to February 28th ****

January 29, 2015, NORTHAMPTON, MA – To help farm families concerned with farm transfer and farmland access, American Farmland Trust today announces funding for Berkshire County farmers and farmland owners to defray some of the associated costs with these issues.

The John P. Farkas Fund will offer grants up to \$2500 to help defray the costs of professional services associated with:

- Farm transfer and succession planning
- Farmland protection
- Selling or leasing farmland to a farmer
- Farm business planning associated with any of the above.

More information, including the grant guidelines and a formal application, is available at www.berkshirefarmland.org.

For a paper copy of the application and grant guidelines, contact Peggy McCabe at American Farmland Trust. (413) 586-9330, ext. 17 or at pmccabe@farmland.org

Applications will be received on a rolling basis. *To be considered in the first grant round, applications are due by February 28, 2015.* First round grant awards will be announced in mid-March. To be considered in the second grant round, applications must be received by July 31, 2015.

The John P. Farkas Fund is administered by American Farmland Trust, in collaboration with Land For Good, Berkshire Grown, The Carrot Project, and Sheffield Land Trust.

This grant program is part of the Berkshire Farmland Initiative, which grew out of a three-year agricultural planning effort in Berkshire County. The *Berkshire Farmland Initiative* will: provide direct assistance and resources to farm families for farm succession planning and farm transfer strategies; help connect farmers and farmland owners seeking to sell or lease land with new and established farmers seeking to rent or buy; and develop a network of partners who can assess landowner and farmer needs and help direct individuals and families to the appropriate resources.

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