

an invitation to create a

LAND & STEWARDSHIP LEGACY



Who will farm the land in the future?

As someone who owns farmland, perhaps you have wondered what you can do to ensure land will be passed on to a new generation of family farmers who will farm with high levels of stewardship. As an organization that has worked since 1982 to “keep the land and people together,” the Land Stewardship Project knows how important it is to come up with viable answers to that question—on a societal level and a personal level.

At LSP we are working toward a vision of a countryside that includes more diverse family farms and more people on the land. We are striving for rural communities that thrive in a landscape with healthy soil, abundant wildlife, and clean air and water. We hope to see urban areas fringed with permanently protected farms that provide safe, nutritious food.

This is why we created the *Land & Stewardship Legacies*. This initiative is a way for your family’s legacy on the land to continue by using it to support LSP’s work and/or passing it on to the next generation of stewardship farmers. Through the *Legacies*, we will work with you and your advisers to plan a gift that meets your goals and advances the vision that you and LSP share for vibrant rural communities, a healthy environment, a diverse landscape and sustainable family farms. We know that contemplating the future of your land is no easy task. The challenging process of determining the future for your farmland or other real estate is rooted in your family’s values. Real estate giving can be complex, but the rewards of your extraordinary vision and generosity can include an enormous opportunity for beginning farmers as well as service to LSP’s wider mission. As you think through your options, we want you to know that through the *Land & Stewardship Legacies* initiative LSP will now accept gifts of farmland or other real estate from members and other friends of our organization.



Land LEGACY

Ensure the continued stewardship of your farmland.

Most charities accept gifts of property with the sole intention of liquidating them. A gift of suitable farmland to LSP is distinguished by its potential to serve as an incubator to help beginning farmers build assets before they purchase their own land. Or it might be sold with affordable terms to a promising graduate of LSP's Farm Beginnings® Program, one of the most successful beginning farmer education initiatives in the nation.

- Farmland, carefully stewarded for generations, is rapidly changing hands.
- One-fourth of farmers and half of farm landlords are at least 65 years old.
- Land values are increasing by up to 20% per year.
- As absentee ownership of farmland increases and mid-size farms decrease in number, more wealth is leaving rural communities.

Despite these trends, many young people are passionate about farming and need farmland. Together we can create an exciting future trend, one that provides access for a new generation of farming men and women. We can support their creativity, skill and commitment by bringing the resource base of previous generations to them through the *Land Legacy*.

We can work together to put young families on the land.

Stewardship LEGACY

Secure financial resources to support the work of the Land Stewardship Project now and into the future.

LSP will continue making a difference for the land and in people's lives by working to:

- Assist people in implementing practical solutions on farms and in communities to achieve high levels of stewardship, good food and renewable and sustainably-raised energy.
- Empower and engage people to define the future of their communities, universities, other institutions and key public policies.

During the past quarter-century, LSP has worked to help create local food systems, launch the next generation of stewardship farmers and develop policies that are good for our land and communities. We are grassroots, practical, visionary and willing to ask the tough questions. Farmers and other rural, suburban and urban members are at the core of what LSP has been able to accomplish. As author-farmer Wendell Berry said recently: "The Land Stewardship Project has made a difference. It's made a tremendous difference."

We are excited about continuing and expanding upon that work during the next 25 years. Your gift through the *Stewardship Legacy* can help bring about sustainable change long into the future. You can choose to make a gift now or leave a bequest to LSP through your will. If you donate using an annuity or trust, you can make a generous gift while still providing future income to yourself and other family members. These and other options can offer tax benefits to you and provide significant funding for LSP's ever-evolving work.

How to Get Started

LSP can work with you and your advisers to plan a gift that meets your goals and advances the vision that you share with us for successful family farms, stewardship of farmland and a diverse landscape resulting in clean water, prime wildlife habitat and vibrant rural communities.

Whom should I talk with?

Call or e-mail LSP to start the conversation. You will discover the steps that you can expect to take in making a gift to LSP. Details discussed will include what kind of options you have in giving, the benefits you can experience and the variety of ways LSP might utilize the gift.

What information will I need to continue the conversation?

You will receive a letter confirming your interest and basic forms to fill out describing the property you are considering gifting. Appropriate maps and documentation will be needed. After further communication, the proposed gift of property may be visited and evaluated by representatives of LSP. A final decision will be considered by LSP's Board of Directors. LSP may work with colleague organizations to implement actual trust instruments and management, or sell property as needed. If a gift is made, it will be used and/or sold according to the terms of the agreement made between you and LSP that encompass the legacy you wish to leave.

Contact us

Details on the *Land & Stewardship Legacies initiative* are available on LSP's website at www.landstewardshipproject.org. You can also call your local LSP office or talk with LSP's George Boody at 651-653-0618, or e-mail him at gboody@landstewardshipproject.org.



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PROJECT

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