



LAND  
STEWARDSHIP  
PROJECT

# Land Stewardship Project 25 Years Strong: Keeping the Land & People Together

The Land Stewardship Project (LSP) was formed to advance practical solutions to achieving stewardship and building widespread public support for an agricultural system in which family farmers, small towns and a clean healthy environment could thrive. LSP's work has led to cleaner water, more wildlife habitat, democratic participation in communities, policies that support greater stewardship and access to healthful, locally-produced food. *With your help, imagine what we can do during the next 25!*

## LSP HAS MADE A DIFFERENCE

### Practical Stewardship Solutions

- Organizing of farmers and scientists during the 1980s led to research and demonstration of cover crops and other sustainable practices.
- Holistic Management and controlled grazing workshops during the 1990s helped farmers adopt new systems.
- The groundbreaking monitoring teams documented environmental benefits of controlled grazing; products included the *Monitoring Tool Box* and peer-reviewed research articles.
- Modeling showed benefits of establishing perennials in watersheds; results published in *BioScience* in 2005.
- Farm Beginnings® community-based education in 10th year has 300 graduates in Minnesota, 60% of whom are farming; success leading to licensing in other states.



### LSP Organizing & Policy Work for Family Farms & Care of the Land

- LSP's organizing in the 1980s resulted in improved farmland conservation and management policies by major life insurance companies.
- With the Campaign for Family Farms, LSP challenged the unjust mandatory pork checkoff, which hog farmers voted out in a national referendum in 2000, but the USDA kept in place.
- LSP successfully advocated for start-up and continuing funds for an alternative swine initiative at the University of Minnesota, as well as other organic and sustainable initiatives.
- LSP helped lead nationally in policy conception, advancement and implementation of the Conservation Security Program as a precedent-setting working lands conservation program in the 2002 Farm Bill.
- LSP has effectively protected local democracy against attempts to weaken or eliminate township planning and zoning in Minnesota.
- LSP assisted citizens across the state to effectively stand up for their rights and organize when corporate-backed factory farms were proposed in their communities.



### Food from Stewardship Farmers

- Promoted Community Supported Agriculture and other forms of direct marketing.
- Published farmer-to-consumer directories, and with the Pride of the Prairie collaborative expanded access to local foods in western Minnesota and at University of Minnesota-Morris.
- With partners Cooperative Development Services and Food Alliance, established an eco-label for environmental and social standards. Food Alliance Midwest has more than 50 certified producers; 53 retail stores and 25 educational or corporate campuses in the Upper Midwest offer its products.



## Stewardship Publications & Cultural Programs

- Over 500 performances of *Planting In the Dust* given.
- *The Farm as Natural Habitat* reviewed in major publications and used in college courses across the country.
- Nationally recognized *Land Stewardship Letter* chronicles the sustainable ag movement.

## Earned national media coverage

*CBS Sunday Morning* coverage of insurance land campaign (1987).

*Washington Post* "Insurers Benefiting in Farm Foreclosures" article (June, 1987).

*National Catholic Reporter* articles (1987-89).

*Successful Farming* articles, including cover stories.

*New York Times* editorials on pork checkoff (2001) and local control (2004)

*Sierra Magazine* "Bringing the Land Back to Life" (1999) and "Food for Thought: Better Bacon" (2003) articles on sustainable livestock production.

National Public Radio series "Going Green in Agriculture" (2005).

*Star Tribune* major editorial series on Mississippi cites LSP's work (2006).

*BioScience* "Redesigning Agriculture" essay (2006).

## LSP IS GROWING: Imagine What We Might Do Together

In 2006, LSP had income of \$1.3 million, up from \$750,000 in 1995. Over the years, LSP has benefited from the generous support of some 2,600 members and more than 75 foundation, government and business funders.



## WHAT'S NEXT?

- Expanding Farm Beginnings® courses in Minnesota and other states with enhanced community leadership development and continuing education.
- Organizing locally, regionally and nationally to lead an effort to win beginning farmer legislation and other reforms in the 2007 Farm Bill and advance policy for sustainable farming and food systems in the Upper Midwest.
- Sustainable economic development through purchasing of local and sustainably-produced foods and production of cellulosic-based renewable energy.
- Addressing land tenure issues.
- Building relationships with minority communities in rural Minnesota.
- Continuing to engage farmers and rural and urban people in education and action that results in better stewardship of our beautiful land, strong and healthy communities and prosperous family farms.



Thanks to everyone who has been part of LSP. We appreciate your support and ask for your continued involvement as we begin our next quarter-century of work. **Together, we can make a difference.**

For details, see LSP's 25th anniversary publication and long range plan on our website: [www.landstewardshipproject.org](http://www.landstewardshipproject.org)

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