

Introduction to LSP's Farm Transition Program

What we mean by Farmland Transition:

This is the process, often complex and slow, by which we plan for the changeover of one entity's ownership and/or stewardship of the land to the next person or persons. This process can begin at any stage of life, can include many strategies. At LSP, our goal is to help people transition while preserving stewardship and conservation values and practices from one owner to the next.

Who is involved? Who is this for?

If you own and work farmland and have strong conservation values, you should be thinking about transition no matter where you are in your career. If you own farmland that you rent out and care deeply about how that land is farmed, you should be thinking about what comes next. If there is farmland in your family and there is not a clear plan for what comes next, you should be working on a transition plan.

What is involved?

Planning for a farm transition can start at any age or point in your farm story, the earlier you start the more options you will have. Although each transition is unique and specific to the parties involved, there are some basics that everyone should cover for a good outcome

Know and record your goals for yourself, your family (however you define family), and your land

Know and record your needs in relation to the property, for example: income, access, use, etc.

Start the conversations about what transition could look like for you

Talk to everyone whom this touches, everyone in relationship with the land and with you

Build a team/network of resources and professionals that will help you meet your goals

What LSP offers:

- A winter 3 day workshop series designed to help you begin and create the transition plan that meets your needs <https://landstewardshipproject.org/events/item/1421>
- A Farm Transition Toolkit: <https://landstewardshipproject.org/morefarmers/farmtransitiontools/farmtransitiontoolkit>
- Seeking Farmers Seeking Land Clearinghouse: Networking beginning and established farmers with strong conservation values <https://landstewardshipproject.org/morefarmers/seekingfarmersseekinglandclearinghouse>
- Network connections with families/individuals who have worked on transitions plans
- Stories of families/individuals who have pursued alternative transition plans <https://landstewardshipproject.org/farmtransitionsprofilesintroduction>

- Resources and staff support for farm transition planning:
<https://landstewardshipproject.org/morefarmers/farmtransitiontools>
- Resources and staff support for non-operating landowners, including conservation lease examples <https://landstewardshipproject.org/stewardshipfood/conservationleases>
See Table of Contents for resources in this document.