

# *Land Stewardship Project: 40 Years of Keeping the Land & People Together*

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- ◆ **1982:** The Land Stewardship Project is founded by Farmers Union organizers Ron Kroese & Victor Ray
  - ◆ **1985:** LSP gains national attention when it documents farmland abuse by insurance companies
  - ◆ **1986:** More than 150 performances of the LSP play, *Planting in the Dust*, are held in Iowa & Minnesota
  - ◆ **1992:** LSP co-sponsors a Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) fair at Hamline University & goes on to publish a popular CSA farm directory on an annual basis
  - ◆ **1993:** The Monitoring Project is co-launched by LSP, resulting in breakthroughs related to science, policy & regenerative agriculture
  - ◆ **1995:** LSP helps launch the Campaign for Family Farms & the Environment to fight the takeover of livestock production by corporate-controlled, mega-operations
  - ◆ **1996:** LSP member-monitoring of hydrogen sulfide emissions from hog operations in Renville County, Minn., spawns the nation's first H2S regulations related to CAFOs
  - ◆ **1997:** LSP publishes *When a Factory Farm Comes to Town: Protecting Your Township from Unwanted Development*
  - ◆ **1998:** First LSP Farm Beginnings class graduates
  - ◆ **2001:** As the result of a national campaign LSP helped organize, hog farmers across the country vote to end the mandatory pork checkoff
  - ◆ **2002:** The 2002 Farm Bill signed into law; it contains the Beginning Farmer & Rancher Development Program & the Conservation Stewardship Program, both of which were based on LSP proposals/initiatives
  - ◆ **2004:** Farm Beginnings initiatives are launched in various states outside of Minnesota; eventually, the national Farm Beginnings Collaborative is launched
  - ◆ **2005:** LSP's first Family Farm Breakfast and Day at the Capitol is held, deepening the organization's influence at the Minnesota Capitol
  - ◆ **2009:** The *Land Stewardship Letter* launches the "Wildly Successful Farming" series, which eventually leads to the publication of a University of Wisconsin Press book by the same name
  - ◆ **2010:** LSP helps uncover the U of M's attempted censorship of the film *Troubled Waters: A Mississippi River Story*, resulting in a public discussion around the influence agribusiness has on land grant research & outreach
  - ◆ **2014:** LSP publishes a special series of influential white papers: "Crop Insurance: How a Safety Net Became a Farm Policy Disaster"
  - ◆ **2015:** LSP launches the "Bridge to Soil Health" initiative, which eventually involves hundreds of farmers in Minnesota, Iowa & Wisconsin
  - ◆ **2016:** As the result of an extensive LSP-led organizing campaign, Winona County passes the first known ban on the mining of silica sand for the use of oil & gas fracking
  - ◆ **2016:** LSP launches its first "Racial Justice in the Food & Farming System" cohort
  - ◆ **2018:** The Land Stewardship Action Fund is launched as an LSP partner organization to help members have a greater impact on the electoral/political process
  - ◆ **2019:** After consulting with member-leaders, LSP publishes its long-range plan — *Vision for the Future: 5 Year Plan 2019-2024*
  - ◆ **2020:** Capping off a series of meetings involving hundreds of members throughout the state, Minn. Ag Commissioner Thom Petersen & Attorney General Keith Ellison participate in an LSP farm crisis forum in Mankato
  - ◆ **2021:** LSP's "100% Soil-Healthy Farming Bill" is introduced at the Minnesota Legislature
  - ◆ **2022:** LSP's 24th Farm Beginnings class graduates; hundreds of former participants in the course are farming throughout the Upper Midwest today