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

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

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