

LAND STEWARDSHIP PROJECT: Celebrating 40 Years of Keeping the Land and People Together



1982

The Land Stewardship Project is founded by Farmers Union organizers Ron Kroese & Victor Ray

1986

More than 150 performances of the LSP play, *Planting in the Dust*, are held in Iowa & Minnesota

1985

LSP gains national attention when it documents farmland abuse by insurance companies

1993

The Monitoring Project is co-launched by LSP, resulting in breakthroughs related to science, policy & regenerative agriculture

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

1995

LSP helps launch the Campaign for Family Farms & the Environment to fight the takeover of livestock production by corporate-controlled, mega-operations

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

1997

LSP publishes *When a Factory Farm Comes to Town: Protecting Your Township from Unwanted Development*

1998

First LSP Farm Beginnings class graduates

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

2001

As the result of a national campaign LSP helped organize, hog farmers across the country vote to end the mandatory pork checkoff

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

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

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





2014

LSP publishes a special series of influential white papers: "Crop Insurance: How a Safety Net Became a Farm Policy Disaster"

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

2015

LSP launches the "Bridge to Soil Health" initiative, which eventually involves hundreds of farmers in Minnesota, Iowa & Wisconsin

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

LSP publishes its Vision for the Future: 5 Year Plan 2019-2024, a guiding document developed by member leaders based on input from more than 500 LSP members.

2020

Capping off a series of meetings on the farm crisis 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

