

# Land Linking in the Chesapeake

Future Harvest CASA has compiled the following list of land linking resources in the Chesapeake. Our aim is to facilitate connections between farmers seeking land and landowners interested in seeing their fields sustainably farmed, to increase the number sustainable operations in the region.

Farmers often find that the purchasing cost of land is prohibitive and a major barrier to getting started in farming. However, we have found that there are many landowners in the regions who have viable land, not currently being farmed, which they would like to see put to productive use. When landowners partner with farmers, both parties reap tremendous economic, environmental, and personal benefits.

Please use this resource list to make connections that will help you lease your land or start your farm!

## **For Farmers or Landowners:**

- [Maryland FarmLINK](#): a land linking database in MD. Farmers can post if they are seeking land, and landowners can post about land they are hoping to lease or sell. This is an excellent resource for landowners looking to take their land to the next level of stewardship.
- [Future Harvest CASA Bulletin Board](#): a place to post for both farmers and landowners to post "classifieds" regarding land sought or offered. Anyone may browse the listings; sign up as a member to post!
- [Farm Lease Connection](#): an intensive land linking database in Pennsylvania. Farmers and landowners may both post and receive guidance.
- [Agricultural Leasing in Maryland](#): read about farm leasing agreements in this publication from University of Maryland.
- [Montgomery Countryside Alliance](#): an active resource that emphasizes conservation and stewardship as central to their decision-making
- [Maryland Environmental Trust](#): MET provides a free online service that connects conservation buyers with properties under easement that are for sale
- Don't forget to contact your county Extension office for local information.

## **For Landowners:**

- [Beginner Farmer Training Program](#): FHCASA's advanced training program for new farmers. Find farmers who are ready to start their farm enterprises, and reach out to them directly-- they may be interested in your land.
- Conservation Organizations: Your state's counties may have their own land conservation organizations. For example, Baltimore County has The Valley's Planning Council, The Manor Conservancy, North County Preservation, and other groups. The main contact for these programs is Ann Jones

[annholmesjones@yahoo.com](mailto:annholmesjones@yahoo.com), who can help with directing landowners to resources for conserving their land.

- [Baltimore County's Department of Environmental Protection and Sustainability](#): can help a landowner get funds from putting land in conservation easements. Contact Wally Lippencott.
- [Maryland Environmental Trust](#): holds conservation easements on 129,000+ acres of scenic open space, forest, and farmland. For information on conservation easements and trusts in your county, you can start with the Maryland Environmental Trust. Contact Elizabeth Buxton at (410) 514-7903 or (877) 514-7900
- [Jefferson County Farmland Protection Board](#): Conservancy programs in West Virginia. Contact Liz Wheeler.

### For Farmers:

- [The Horn Farm Center For Agricultural Education](#): An incubator farm. Consider getting started here, and then moving onto your own site. Contact [Nedette.Otterbein@jgr.com](mailto:Nedette.Otterbein@jgr.com) or [info@hornfarmcenter.org](mailto:info@hornfarmcenter.org).
- [Power in Dirt and other Baltimore City programs](#): Find land in the city and start an urban farm.

### Videos:

- Watch [this video](#) on land linking by the Willistown Conservation Trust.
- Watch [Farming for the Future](#), produced by the Prince Charitable Trusts.