



Why Save Farmland?

- Throughout the United States, we lose two acres of agricultural land to development every minute of every day. That adds up to more than 2,500 acres a day—over one million acres a year.
- 86 percent of America's fruits and vegetables, and 63 percent of our dairy products come from urban and suburban areas under the threat of development.
- Well-managed farmland shelters wildlife, supplies scenic open space, helps filter impurities from our air and water, and has the opportunity to help solve some of our country's most pressing environmental problems.
- The U.S. food and farming system contributes nearly \$1 trillion to the national economy—or more than 13 percent of the gross domestic product—and employs 17 percent of the labor force.
- Farmland provides more than 70 percent of the habitat for America's wildlife. Developing that land puts American biological diversity at risk.
- America is becoming more dependant on imported food, some from countries with less stringent environmental safety regulations
- When farms and ranches are pushed off the most fertile soil, they are forced to rely more on fertilizers, pesticides and irrigation to do what the best land does naturally.
- The cost of basic services (schools, fire, police and maintenance) skyrockets in communities across the country that sacrifice farmland to uncontrolled growth. Scattered development increases taxes and makes services more costly.
- The food and farming system employs nearly 23 million Americans across the country. Farmland protection is an investment in the backbone of our economy.

American Farmland Trust is a national nonprofit organization working with communities and individuals to protect the land, plan for agriculture and keep the land healthy. As the nation's leading advocate for farm and ranch land conservation, AFT has ensured that more than a million acres stays bountiful and productive. AFT's national office is located in Washington, D.C. The phone number is 202-331-7300.