



**MA FARMLAND PROTECTION FORUM
December 3, 2008**

AGENDA

- 8:30 Registration and coffee
- 9:00 Welcome/Introductions
- 9:15 Overview: Farmland Loss in Massachusetts (Ben Bowell, American Farmland Trust)
- 9:30 Current Toolbox
- 9:30-10:15 Agricultural Preservation Restriction (APR) Program
- Program Review (staff, MA Department of Agricultural Resources)
 - Discussion of program strengths and challenges
- 10:15-10:35 Farm Viability Enhancement Program
- Program Review (staff, MA Department of Agricultural Resources)
 - Discussion of program strengths and challenges
- 10:35 Break
- 11:00 Current toolbox, continued
- 11:00-11:45 Panel Review of:
- Chapter 61, 61A and 61B (Bob O'Connor, Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs)
 - State Executive Order 193 and Agricultural Lands Mitigation Policy (staff, MA Department of Agricultural Resources)
 - Federal and State Tax Incentives (David Santomena, Essex County Greenbelt Assoc.; Steve Long, the Nature Conservancy)
 - Community Preservation Act (Clem Clay, Trust for Public Land)

- 11:45 Discussion of Current Toolbox
- Toolbox strengths
 - Suggested improvements
 - Toolbox challenges & unmet needs
- 12:00 Lunch
- 1:00 Expanding the Toolbox
- 1:00-2:00 Linking State Pensions and Farmland Protection;
Ecosystem Services Payments
- Presentation by Mike McGrath, DE Department of Agriculture
- 2:00-2:30 Agricultural Districts; Municipal Incentive Agreements
- Presentation by Cris Coffin, American Farmland Trust
- 2:45 Break
- 3:00 Expanding the Toolbox, continued
- 2:45-3:30 Installment Purchase Agreements; Aggie Bonds
- Presentation by Pat O'Connell, Evergreen Conservation Finance
- 3:30-4:00 Other Potential Tools
- Ideas from Forum Participants
- 4:00 Discussion: Where Do We Go From Here?
- Feasibility of identified tools
 - Creation of working group to refine/pursue possible tools
 - Next steps
- 4:30 Depart