New England Farmland Finder Website Unveiled

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Colchester, VT – Farming is “in”. Many young and second career farmers have their hearts set on farming in New England. Armed with a passion for feeding people, working with animals, and getting their hands in the dirt, these new farmers are prepared for the hard work ahead. They just need a good piece of land to start or expand their farming dreams.

On the other hand, a growing appreciation of “local food” and valuable farm soils is leading New England landowners to connect with farmers and find creative ways to share their land. They see many advantages to renting or selling their farmland. They just need to find a farmer.

Enter the New England Farmland Finder website at http://newenglandfarmlandfinder.org/. This new online service helps farmers and landowners find each other. This farm property clearinghouse is free, simple, up-to-date, and privacy protected. It contains information and resource links to inform and support farm seekers and landowners.

The site was launched by a collaboration of New England organizations focusing on farmland access issues. The new service complements local and statewide efforts to match new farmers with available land. Ben Waterman of UVM Extension’s New Farmer Program is enthusiastic about this New England-wide resource. Waterman noted, “In our experience, people come from all over the country to farm in our area. Yet, finding land to purchase or rent can be their biggest challenge. This new service helps farmers explore the region and make good connections. It also makes it easy for individuals, towns and organizations to let farmers know about their available farms and farmland.”

The website is part of a region-wide, USDA-funded project on farmland access directed by Land For Good. Kathy Ruhf, LFG Co-director and project lead, observed, “This site complements farm link and land access programs that educate, help and support seekers and landowners. It provides a wide gateway to all these services, making them more accessible to a broader audience.”

Landowners, farm seekers and realtors are encouraged to visit newenglandfarmlandfinder.org to post or search for farm properties, and to check out the resources. The site will become increasingly useful as more properties are added.

For more information contact info@newenglandfarmlandfinder.org or ben.waterman@uvm.edu

New England Farmland Finder is not involved in real estate transactions. It does not sell or rent properties or receive a commission for any transactions. Realtors are encouraged to post farm properties on our site. This site is supported in part with funding from the USDA/NIFA Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program #2010-03067.
UVM Extension helps individuals and communities put research-based knowledge to work. Issued in furtherance of Cooperative Extension work, Acts of May 8th and June 30th, 1914, in cooperation with the United States Department of Agriculture. University of Vermont Extension, Burlington, Vermont. University of Vermont Extension, and U.S. Department of Agriculture, cooperating, offer education and employment to everyone without regard to race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital or familial status.

Established in 1994, the UVM Center for Sustainable Agriculture provides timely information to Vermont communities and the UVM campus. The Center cultivates partnerships, supports innovative research and practices, and informs policy to advance sustainable food and farming systems. For more information, contact Linda Berlin at the Center: 656-0669 or linda.berlin@uvm.edu.

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