



Supporting land access for the next generation of farmers

***“We abuse land because we regard it as a commodity belonging to us.***

***When we see land as a community to which we belong, we may begin to use it with love and respect.”***

***- Aldo Leopold, A Sand County Almanac***



**EQUITY**

**OWNERSHIP**

**TENURE**

**... Followed by STEWARDSHIP**



## FARM CRISIS... the unstable ground

**For every farmer under 25, there are five above 75 years old. Farmland owners average ownership is over 62 years old**

**Land values keep going up... rising over 400 percent in 15 years in some areas, disconnected from sustainable agriculture or soil building, carbon sequestration and other values**

**Farmland ownership continues to consolidate... 41 percent of farmland is held by largest 8 percent of farms, 98% of farmland is owned by white people, and 90% of farmland is owned by non-farmers**

**37 mid-size farms a day closed - 2012 forward**

**Farmers have among the highest suicide rates**

**People have lost connection to soil, each other, food, and community**

**400,000,000 acres (161,874,257 hectares) of farm and ranch land, over \$1,260,000,000 (1,145,718,000 euros) in land based market value, is currently in transition**

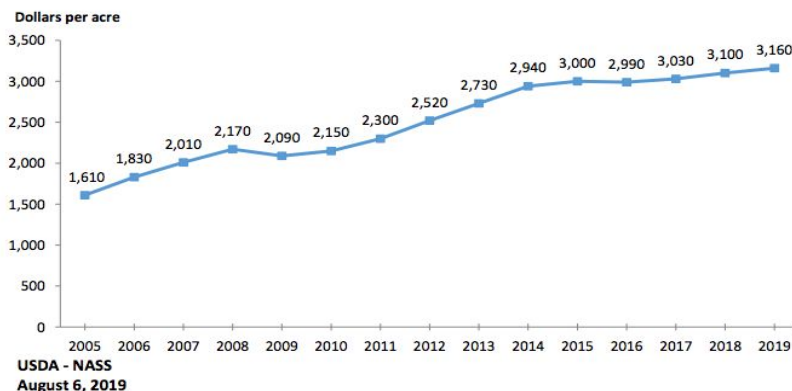


# Agricultural land Market Value does not align with Sustainable Production Value

**Regenerative Management and Ecological Stewardship requires additional investment to bring about Soil and Ecosystem Health and Carbon Sequestration needed to mitigate Climate Crisis**

The price of (US) farmland increased almost 2 percent in 2018 to a national average of **\$3,140 an acre** (7,055 euros a hectare), with average prices **as high as** \$8,080 in Iowa, \$9,000 in California and \$12,700 in New Jersey... Rhode Island, has **the country's most expensive farmland** at \$13,800 an acre (31,006 euros a hectare)

**Average Farm Real Estate Value – United States: 2005-2019**



**International investment and ownership in farmland doubled between 2004 and 2014, with more than 25,000,000 acres (10,117,141 hectares) now owned by international investors... US investor sectors also own a great deal of farmland**

# INSPIRATIONS...

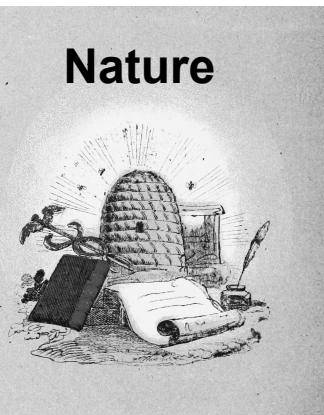
**Cooperatives:** an autonomous association of persons united voluntarily toward common economic, social, and, cultural aspirations through a jointly-owned democratically-controlled enterprise

**Community Land Trusts:** a nonprofit organization with historic roots in indigenous cultures, pre-colonial Africa, and ancient Chinese economic systems to 'restore' the land control, access, value, use, and equity to a community of local stakeholders

**Conservation Land Trust:** a nonprofit organization focused on conserving land containing sensitive natural areas, farmland, ranchland, water sources, cultural resources, or notable landmarks

**Terre de Liens:** founded 2003 in France; 1 national association, 19 local associations, 177 farms, 10,500+ acres, 13,500 shareholders, 4,300 members, and 10,878 donors

## Nature



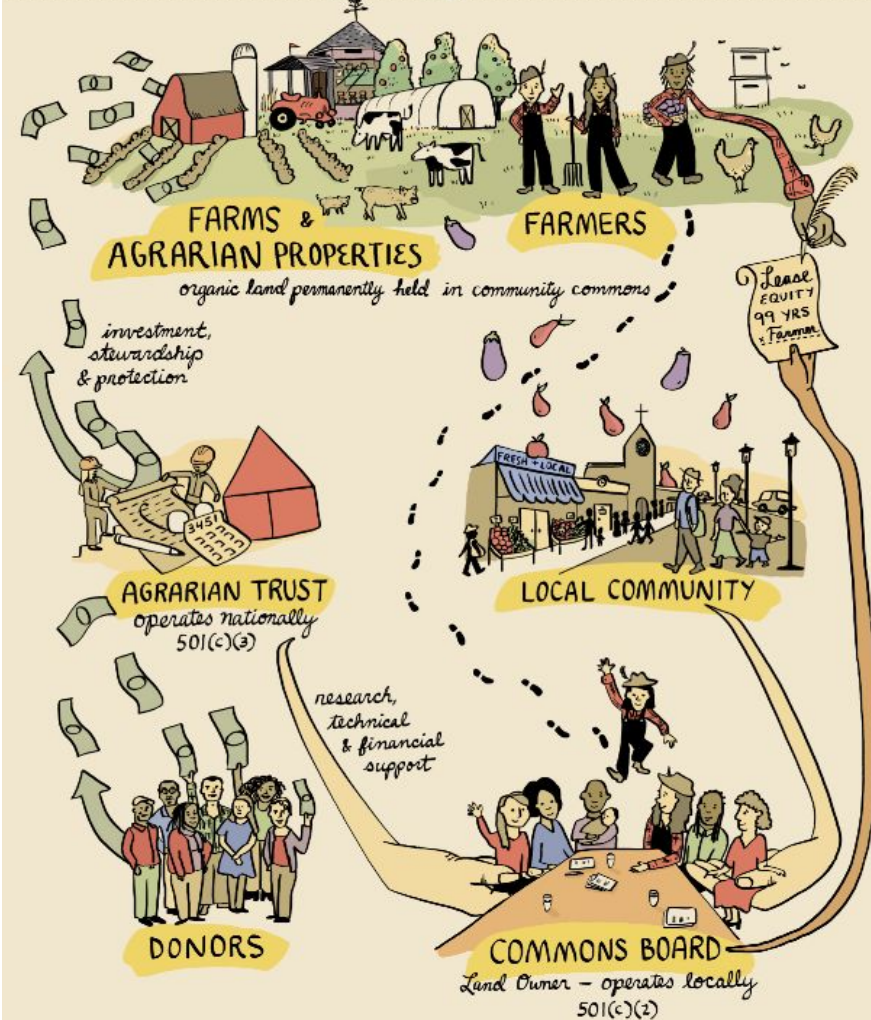
**Community Supported Agriculture:** a socioeconomic model of agriculture that connects the producer and consumers within the food system more closely by allowing the consumer to subscribe to the harvest of a certain farm or group of farms and for both parties to share risk

**Bhoodan Movement:** in 1951 in India a land gift of 100 acres to the landless and a 300 mile walk to promote peace, non-violence, and land reform transformed relationship to land



# LOCAL AGRARIAN COMMONS

Agrarian Trust is creating multiple local Agrarian Commons (501c2 land-holding entities) to support land access, tenure, and equity for the next generation of farmers. Agrarian resources are held in common ownership for and by the community and removed from private ownership and the commoditized marketplace



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**We see this model as a necessary and innovative approach to address the realities of farmland owner demographics, wealth disparity, farm viability, and all who are excluded and marginalized from equity in land, food, and community**



# AGRARIAN COMMONS



- Farmland serving urban and regional foodshed markets and communities
- Honoring and creating transitions of cumulative human knowledge
- Support and connections to local sustainable food systems that engage community, schools, organizations, and aligned farms
- Renewable energy production and soil regeneration to sequester carbon
- Community connectivity through events, gatherings, festivals, and engagement
- Next generation farmer internship, apprenticeship, employment, layered enterprise, and business partnerships opportunities.
- Shared stewardship of soils, farm ecology, and agrarian community



## AGRARIAN TRUST

Commoditizing people and land has lead us to extraction and exploitation models we have now.

Why would a commoditized model of regeneration lead to anything else?

**We Must Prioritize... EQUITY, OWNERSHIP, TENURE**

**Carbon Sequestration and Soil Regeneration require a different timeline then human and farm business life**

**Farmland ownership demographics create transitions that bring great risk to soils investments and improvements being made**

