FARMS UNDER THREAT:  
THE STATE OF THE STATES

John Piotti  
President and CEO  
American Farmland Trust  
May 20, 2020
Agenda

• Summary
• Brief Q&A
• Roundtable
• General Q&A

How to Participate

Ask questions!
Up-vote questions!
Take the poll!
Roundtable Discussion

Matthew Lohr
Chief, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

Karen Ross
Secretary, California Department of Food and Agriculture
Rural America Could Be the Region Hardest Hit by the COVID-19 Outbreak

Written by Christopher Curley on May 13, 2020 - Fact checked by Jennifer Chesak

Inside Philanthropy

Alarms Are Sounding on Food Insecurity in the U.S. Who’s Answering the Call?

Liz Longley

VPR

Rising Food Insecurity And Hunger Relief Amid The Pandemic

By JANE UHIDHOLM & MATTHEW F. SMITH • APR 26, 2020

Rural America Could Be the Region Hardest Hit by the COVID-19 Outbreak

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FARMS UNDER THREAT:
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www.farmland.org/
FarmsUnderThreat
AFT’s Reason to Be is to Avert Catastrophe
11 Million Acres Converted, 2001-2016
2,000 acres a day
TOP 12 MOST THREATENED STATES

1. Texas
2. North Carolina
3. New Jersey
4. Tennessee
5. Georgia
6. Rhode Island
7. Connecticut
8. South Carolina
9. Massachusetts
10. Delaware
11. Florida
12. Pennsylvania
Urban and Highly Developed
Low-Density Residential
23 times more likely
4.4 Million Acres of Nationally Significant Land Converted
Climate Change
Policies & Programs

- Purchase of Agricultural Conservation Easements (PACE)
- Land-Use Planning
- Agricultural Districts
- Property Tax Relief
- Farm Link
- State Leasing
TOP 12 HIGH RESPONSE STATES

1. New Jersey
2. Delaware
3. Maryland
4. Pennsylvania
5. Vermont
6. California
7. Connecticut
8. Rhode Island
9. Oregon
10. Washington
11. Massachusetts
12. Hawaii
State Actions

1. Map Agricultural Land
2. Adopt a Suite of Coordinated Policies to Protect Farmland
3. Support Farm Viability and Access to Land
4. Plan for Agriculture, Not Just Around It
5. Save the Best, but Don’t Forget the Rest
Federal Actions

1. Double Funding for ACEP-ALE
2. Strengthen the Farmland Protection Policy Act
3. Facilitate Farm Transfer to a New Generation
4. Increase Support for Agricultural Viability
5. Provide Federal Funding to Plan for Agriculture
OUR GOAL

DOUBLE THE AMOUNT OF PERMANENTLY PROTECTED FARMLAND

2020

2040

DRAMATICALLY REDUCE THE RATE THAT FARMLAND IS CONVERTED TO OTHER USES

2,000 acres converted per day

1,000

500

2020  2030  2040

American Farmland Trust
AFT Will Lead the Response

1. Establishing the National Agricultural Land Network
2. Providing New Leadership in Key Locations
3. Protecting More Farmland Ourselves and with Partners
4. Advocating for Stronger State and Federal Policies
5. Promoting Research-Based Decision Making
Join us!
Questions?

Explore the maps and scorecard at:  
www.farmland.org/farmsunderthreat

For more information about the project or AFT:  
www.farmland.org