Delaware River Valley Stakeholders Meeting

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American Farmland Trust

- Founded in 1980
- Private nonprofit organization
- Dedicated to farmland protection, environmental stewardship and agricultural viability
Three National Initiatives

- Ag & Environment
- Farmland Protection
- New Growing Local initiative to promote agriculture’s role in local and regional food systems
Most Food is Grown in Metro Areas

Food Production in the Path of Development

- **Fruit, Tree Nuts & Berries**: 91%
- **Vegetables & Melons**: 78%
- **Dairy**: 67%
- **Poultry & Eggs**: 54%

We Work to Protect Farmland

Nationwide Advocacy and Technical Assistance

Nationwide PACE Activity
September 2008

Notes:
1. "PACE activities" mean those in which enrollment for easement acquisition to protect agricultural land (on a site or local level) or an established program that helps enroll land to protect agricultural land. Projects that are temporarily traceable due to a lack of funding are counted, programs that have sunset are not (e.g., Montana).
We Plan for Agriculture

Not just around it!

- Land use policies and smart growth
- Ag economic development
- Natural resource conservation
- Next generation of farmers
Now We’re “Growing Local”

- Addressing barriers and leveraging opportunities to support local farms, farmers and farmland
- Focus on local and regional food systems in a smart growth context

Healthy Farms Healthy Food Healthy Communities
Barriers We’re Addressing

- **Land** - not enough farmland is available and affordable to farmers
- **Labor** - Too few farmers “growing local” to meet increased demand
- **Logistics** - local/regional food system infrastructure has been dismantled
- **Legislation** - 20th Century policies at local, state and federal levels don’t meet 21st century needs and conditions
Major Program Activities

- Advocacy and Policy Development:
  - Federal - mostly through Farm Bill
  - State - creating policy suite and scorecard
  - Local - planning for ag and improving ordinances

- Pilot Projects

- Research:
  - Center for Agriculture in Environment

- Technical Assistance:
  - Farmland Information Center
Recommendation

- Engage communities and farmers to work together to ensure:
  - Access to affordable farmland,
  - Farm-friendly planning and zoning,
  - Food security and resiliency,
  - Economic prosperity and
  - Environmental quality
For information about American Farmland Trust:
www.farmland.org

For information and technical assistance:
FARMLAND INFORMATION CENTER
www.farmlandinfo.org
(800) 370 - 4879