Promoting Access to Land, Knowledge, and Capital for a New Generation of Farmers

Greater Philadelphia Food System Stakeholder Committee Meeting

Marilyn Anthony, PASA
Patty Elkis, DVRPC
Amy Verbofsky, DVRPC
Agriculture hasn’t always been viewed as part of the Conservation movement, but to me it’s one of the clearest and most direct ways to get people to understand the importance of the environment. I can’t uproot a tree and bring it into an inner city community and say “this tree is why you should care” but I can take a tomato and say, “this tomato comes from five miles up the road, and there’s a place that needs to be protected and here’s why.”

Will Bullock
Farm Director, Trustees of Reservations
Pennsylvania Association for Sustainable Agriculture
Economic Development

Sustainable Foodshed

Human Health

Environmental Restoration
Farm & Food IQ Test

a. Average age of US farmer
   • 500

b. # of preserved acres of farmland in PA
   • 8,000

c. % increase in SE PA farmers markets 2000-10
   • 200,000

d. High value crop revenue per acre, direct sale
   • 57

e. Potential sales from new farms in 5 county area
   • 3

f. PA rank in US direct sales
   • 50

g. Most new farms are smaller than ____ acres
   • 200,000,000
Demand for locally grown food is rising

Farmers’ Markets in the U.S. (USDA)
New Entrepreneurs: CSA

Number of Community-Supported Agriculture Organizations in Operation (USDA)
Next Gen Farmers

What they lack:

• Access to Information
• Access to Capital
• Access to Land

Mark Dornstreich,
Branch Creek Farm,
Field Day at Liberty Gardens,
Coopersburg PA
Equity Creation: Financials

Accumulated Equity for Farmer by Year 10

Ownership Market Value

Lease
Growing is Better Than Mowing: New Farmers on Leased Lands
Intern and Tricia Borneman (rt), Owner
Blooming Glen CSA, Blooming Glen PA

Transforming Open Space to Sustainable Farm Enterprises
Sara Runkle (first from left), Farm Educator
Seed Farm, Emmaus, PA
Turning Roots Farm
Source: Albert Yee
Clodhopper Farm, Springville, PA
Food