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**No Farms
No Food**



American Farmland Trust



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SAVING THE LAND THAT SUSTAINS US

A man wearing a light-colored short-sleeved shirt, khaki pants, and a baseball cap is standing in a field of green, leafy plants. He is looking down at a plant he is holding in his hands. In the background, there are farm buildings and a clear sky.

**Farming done right can
not only be carbon
neutral, but a carbon
sink, countering
emissions from other
economic sectors.**

In 1980:

- No agricultural land trust community
- No recognition of Agricultural Conservation Easements in federal law
- No federal funds for Farmland Protection
- Minimal support for better farming practices
- No Conservation Title in Farm Bill

The Climate Crisis



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**AFT is the principle national ag group
organized around a holistic approach.**

Land

Practices

People

Our Tools

Quantify
Impacts



Work on
the Ground



Unite Coalitions &
Advance Policy
Solutions

Many ways to talk about better farming

- regenerative ag
- restorative ag
- climate-smart ag
- carbon farming



Specific Practices

- No till or low till
- Cover crops
- Crop rotations
- Intensive rotational grazing

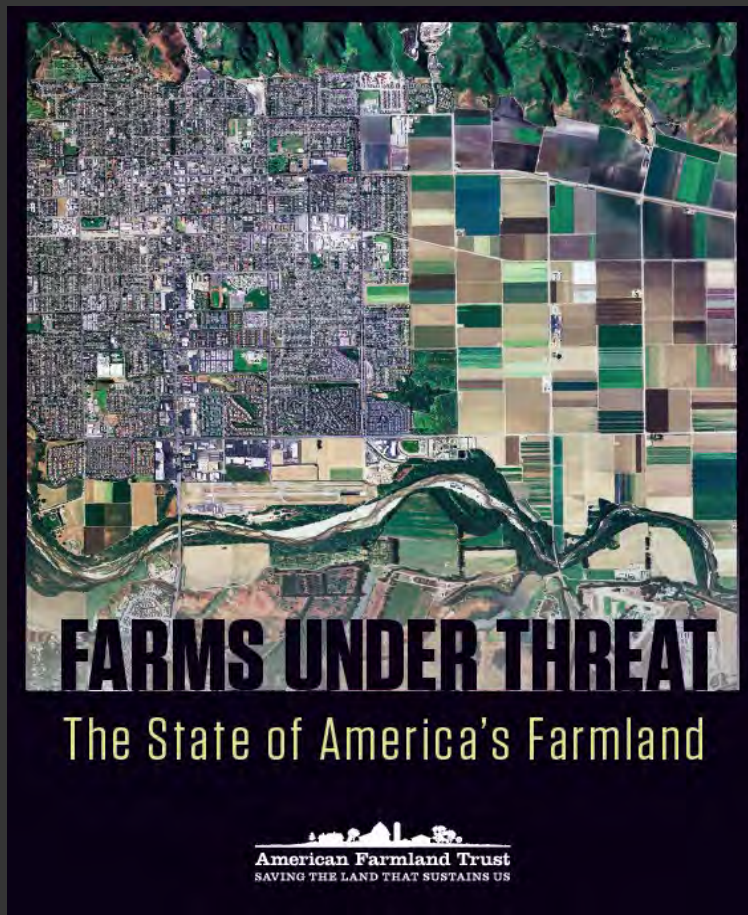


In late **2018**, the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change stated that the Paris Accord **climate goals cannot be reached by reducing GHG emissions alone**. That we also need to pursue **natural solutions** that **sequester carbon**.

With **every acre of farmland we lose** we not only lose the ability of that land to provide **environmental benefits**, we put more pressure on the remaining land to be **farmed more intensely**, further reducing environmental benefits.



The U.S. loses
3 acres of
irreplaceable
farmland
every minute.



—

**We will only realize the
results we want and
need from regenerative
farming if we have
enough farmland.**

**How much farmland do
we need?**



How much farmland would we lose?

- Riparian buffers
- Crop rotations and cover crops
- Return marginal land to other uses
- Carbon neutral
- Carbon sink

How much farmland
do we need?

Next logical step for AFT's research is to assess how much farmland we need to **BOTH** grow needed food and provide essential environmental services.



Long before we run out of the agricultural land we need to **feed a growing population**, we will run out of the agricultural land we need to **restore the planet**.

And with the last 19
months showing
employees that they can
work from almost
anywhere, what will that
mean for farmland loss?

40% of U.S.
agricultural land will
change hands in the
next 15 years due to
the age of
landowners.



The only way we will
retain sufficient land to
manage using best
practices is if we attract
and train a new
generation of farmers
and ranchers.

Key Takeaways

- To combat climate change, we need widespread adoption of regenerative farming practices **AND** sufficient farmland **AND** enough of the right farmers and ranchers.
- We don't know how much agricultural land we need; but we could be getting close to a tipping point.



Reasons for Hope

- We have the tools (to protect the land, manage it well, support the next generation)
- We're poised for changes in both policy and markets to compensate farmers for BOTH growing food and providing environmental services.
- We're positioned to take on new research to assess the tipping point.



AFT and partnerships with State Conservation Agencies

AFT's Climate Initiative:

- Carbon Reduction Potential Evaluation tool (CaRPE)
- National Agriculture Lands Network
- Leopold Conservation Awards
- Smart solar siting
- Farms Under Threat research and results

FARMS UNDER THREAT



A woman with blonde hair tied back is smiling warmly at a small, dark-colored piglet. She is wearing a grey hoodie and red work gloves. The piglet is looking back at her. The background is a soft-focus outdoor setting with green foliage.

Thank you!

Questions and discussion?