

## Land Link Montgomery

Land Link Montgomery seeks to "link" beginner and experienced farmers with available land and farms within Montgomery County.

There are many challenges facing young and expanding farmers in Montgomery County: extraordinarily high land prices, a decrease in funding for programs that help young people afford farms, and not having farmland in the family. These challenges also disproportionately impact farmers of color.

As the Covid crisis has shown, fortifying the local food system is an imperative. Empty shelves at the start of the crisis and ongoing food insecurity show there is more work to do. Local food systems depend on local farmers and local land to survive. Land Link Montgomery offers a program that links aspiring and expanding farmers to landowners through a simple database, ensuring that Montgomery County is continuing to build a strong local food system.

Since 2011, Land Link has matched more that 500 acres of local land with new and expanding farmers. Many more farmers are seeking land to get started.

# Benefits of Leasing Your Land

• Community Benefit

Land Stewardship

- Fresh Food
- •
- Tax Benefits\*

#### How Does the Land Link Montgomery Program Work?

Land Link Montgomery solicits applications from land seekers and interested land owners in Montgomery County and surrounding areas. Landowners and farmers are looking for a variety of arrangements including long term leases, sales, work shares and business partnerships. Farmers are seeking land for table crops, orchards, livestock and other ventures.

Farmers and landowners can become Land Link Montgomery members with a one-time application fee of \$30 which supplements the cost of maintaining the program.

Farm and farmer listings can be browsed by anyone online. The listings are assigned an identification number in order to keep their identity anonymous.

Land seekers and land owners will be able locate farms/farmers of interest based on matching sets of criteria and shared vision. Contacts are made though Land Link Montgomery to maintain privacy. The land seeker and landowner can then start a conversation and assess if they have matching goals. The site also hosts a toolbox of lease templates and other resources.

### Dig In -

No amount of land is too large or small to list. Not sure what's best for your land? We can come take a look and discuss possibilities.

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Land Link in Action: Dodo Farms (above) was profiled on MD Farm and Harvest on MPT. Video: mocolandlink.org

#### Recent Matches

- An Immigrant Service Organization gets growing on an acre in Clarksburg to fight food insecurity.
- A Darnestown homeowner gains a business partner to transition a lawn to flowers, natives and an orchard.
- A back paddock in Barnesville becomes crops for the food bank in the hands of a newly trained farmer.