

Role of Steering Committee



American Farmland Trust is launching a **National Agricultural Land Network, or NALN**, to strengthen the collective capacity of public agencies, planning entities, and land trusts working to protect agricultural land by providing opportunities to network, learn, and collaborate around tools and strategies to save the land that sustains us.

The NALN will be open to *members* and *collaborators*. Members include public programs, public agencies, quasi-public entities, and private land trusts that are engaged in or intend to engage in agricultural land protection or planning. Collaborators include entities and organizations that support agricultural land protection indirectly through services, programming, or public policy, including coalitions that represent the kind of organizations that may become members and national, regional, or state-based trade associations or non-profit organizations whose work includes the advancement of agricultural land protection or land-use policies that support agriculture.

The NALN will provide opportunities for peer networking, professional development, basic and advanced training on agricultural land planning and protection tools and strategies, federal and state policy updates and information sharing, and access to and training on

AFT's extensive land cover data and mapping resources developed through its groundbreaking "Farms Under Threat" research study.

AFT is seeking individuals representing a cross-section of NALN members to sit on the Network's inaugural Steering Committee. Inaugural Steering Committee members will help to set early priorities for NALN programming and provide input and feedback on network functions and administration. Other potential roles include:

- Identifying topics for trainings, technical bulletins, and peer learning discussions and discussion leaders and subject experts on selected topics
- Shaping the NALN track and pre-conference workshop for AFT's national conference, scheduled for Washington, D.C., in May 2020
- Brainstorming ideas and ways the NALN might pursue collaborative network research or communications projects
- Identifying possible funding sources for potential NALN services, such as a scholarship fund that would permit NALN members to attend regional convenings and national conferences
- Advising on the timing, agenda, and format for NALN state and regional convenings

For more information, or if you are interested in serving on the Steering Committee, please be in touch with Cris Coffin, NALN director, at ccoffin@farmland.org, or (413) 695-4653.

- Suggesting content for the NALN newsletter

Inaugural Steering Committee members will be asked to serve a 15-month term beginning in July 2019 and ending in October 2020.

Understanding that the inaugural Steering Committee will play an important role in advising on NALN functions and programming, we ask that Steering Committee members be willing to commit up to two hours per month in 2019. We anticipate monthly phone or video conferences (this will likely drop to every other month in 2020), lasting no more than 60 minutes. Steering Committee members will be asked to review materials prior to conferences and may be asked for input by email between meetings.