



Why?

Working together to establish permanently affordable farms is critical to the sustainable future of Massachusetts.

- Massachusetts lost over 18% of its farmland over the past 30 years.
- Massachusetts has the most expensive farmland in the nation, with an average value of \$12,202 per acre.
- The high cost of farmland is preventing new farmers from entering the field
- Locally produced fresh food is healthy for our families and the environment.
 - Well managed farms promote clean water and healthy soils.
- Successful farm businesses create sustainable, green jobs and stimulate the local economy.
 - Many local farms help fight hunger by donating surplus food to food banks.



Red Fire Farm and Mount Grace seek your help to address the urgent need for permanently affordable working farms. Secure, affordable access to land is one of the major challenges facing new and young farmers.

FARMING AT RISK

The simple truth is, farmland is too expensive for farmers. Many Massachusetts farms have been sold for development, driving up the cost of the farmland that remains. Even when conserved as farmland, the mortgage or lease payments often make it impossible for a farmer to earn a living from the land. If the farmers cannot find or afford farmland, local farms will continue to be at risk.

This is the case for Red Fire Farm, a successful, organic Community Support Agriculture (CSA) farm distributing over 1,000 farm shares across the state. Though a proven success, Red Fire Farm's long-term viability is at risk. Located in Granby, Massachusetts, since 2001, Red Fire Farm was unable to secure a long term lease on most of the land they till. Without finding long-term access to affordable farmland, the future of Red Fire Farm is uncertain.

A PIONEERING MODEL:

WHOLE FARM AFFORDABILITY

Under the proposed model, Mount Grace will own the cropland, and Red Fire Farm will own the farmhouse, barns, greenhouses, and other buildings. Mount Grace will grant a 99-year renewable lease to the farmer at a rate that is viable for food production. In addition, the resale price of the farm buildings will be restricted to ensure that it is always affordable for the next farmer.

The result is a permanently affordable whole farm, or a farm that has the elements that a farmer needs – fields, barns, greenhouses, and housing – at a rate that a farmer can afford.



THE CAMPAIGN FOR RED FIRE FARM

Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust has launched a \$400,000 capital campaign to purchase the former Blue Meadow Farm and Tuvok Farms in Montague to establish a permanently affordable farm. This land has some of the best farm soils in the country for growing vegetables and is located on the banks of the Connecticut River.

Mount Grace will lease the land at an affordable rate and ensure good stewardship of the farm. The tenant of the region's first permanently affordable whole farm will be Red Fire Farm.

With your support, Mount Grace will hold farm land as a community resource over the long term to help ensure that working farms are able to provide healthy, locally grown food forever.

How?

Mount Grace and Red Fire Farm will utilize a new model of shared ownership, ushering in a new era of permanently protected, affordable farms.

- Mount Grace will own the land in Montague and hold it as a community asset.
- The farmers will own the farmhouse, barn, greenhouses, and future improvements.
 - Mount Grace will lease the land to the farmers at an affordable rate.
 - Mount Grace will grant the farmers a 99-year inheritable lease providing long term land security for the farm.
 - A permanent Affordability Restriction will be placed on the farm with future sales of the farm at a rate affordable for farmers.
 - Property taxes will be paid on the farm and contribute to the economic health of the community.





By valuing their employees, nurturing their land, producing a staggering amount of high-quality produce, and maintaining a diversified market strategy, Red Fire Farm is an example of a cornerstone business in an enduring, thriving rural economy.

~ ELIZABETH CARTER, THE MONTAGUE REPORTER



RED FIRE FARM CAMPAIGN
Forever a farm, forever affordable

A PROJECT OF MOUNT GRACE LAND CONSERVATION TRUST

PLEASE CONTACT MOUNT GRACE FOR MORE INFORMATION.



Founded in 2001, Red Fire Farm is an organic mixed vegetable, fruit, and flower farm. Red Fire Farm operates a community supported agriculture (CSA) program providing more than 1,000 farm shares across the state with pick-ups in Northampton, Amherst, Granby, Greenfield, Springfield, Pittsfield, Jamaica Plain, Somerville, Brighton, Cambridge, Boston, Newton, and Montague. www.redfirefarm.com



Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust is a nonprofit conservation organization protecting land in the Connecticut River Valley and Quabbin Reservoir regions of Massachusetts. Founded in 1986, Mount Grace has conserved nearly 25,000 acres of farms, forests, and watershed land in 25 years. www.mountgrace.org

YOUR TAX DEDUCTIBLE CONTRIBUTIONS CAN BE SENT TO:

Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust
1461 Old Keene Road
Athol, Massachusetts 01331
TEL: 978-248-2043
E-MAIL: landtrust@mountgrace.org
WEB: www.mountgrace.org

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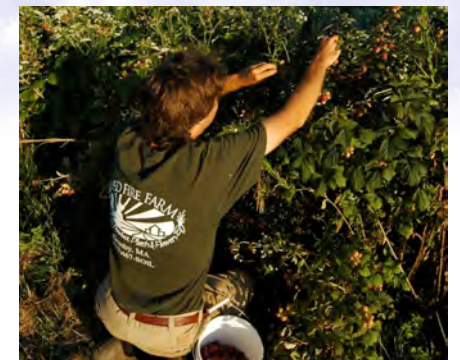


RED FIRE FARM CAMPAIGN
Forever a farm, forever affordable

A PROJECT OF MOUNT GRACE LAND CONSERVATION TRUST



From field to fork, you can help create affordable working farms in Massachusetts forever.



This is quite possibly a once in a lifetime chance to permanently protect some of the best vegetable farm land in the world.

~ RYAN VOILAND, RED FIRE FARM