



American Farmland Trust

is a national conservation organization devoted to “saving the land that sustains us.” To achieve our mission, we work across the policy, research, education, and direct support fields to protect farmland from haphazard development, promote sound farming practices, and enhance economic viability for farmers and agricultural communities.



Regenerate Virginia

In addition to AFT’s national work, we also engage at the regional, state, and local levels. In the Commonwealth, we are working closely with on-the-ground partners to advance a better and brighter future for farming through the **Regenerate Virginia** initiative. One project that we’re especially excited about—and that is particularly relevant for Virginia Association of Counties members—revolves around “planning for agriculture.” This work both encompasses and transcends traditional land use planning to help communities **holistically envision a sound, productive, and viable future for agriculture.**



“Planning for Agriculture in Virginia”

Grounded in both quantitative and qualitative data—with direct input from dozens of on-the-ground leaders—AFT’s “**Planning for Agriculture in Virginia**” project is helping communities develop and sharpen proven tools to **protect agricultural land, serve and support local farmers, advance rural economic development** in ways that support rather than displace agriculture, and **increase public appreciation of land and water stewardship.** As part of this project, we will develop a toolkit filled with case studies, suggestions, and strategies that counties across the Commonwealth can use to plan for agriculture—and then prepare to bring those plans to life. We will also convene local leaders and partners through workshops and other events to advance this work.

Are you interested in learning more about this project? Could it help your community achieve its goals and visions?

If so, let us know! We welcome your thoughts and questions, and we’re grateful to VACo members who have already provided input. For more information, please contact **Brooks Lamb (AFT’s Land Protection and Access Specialist) at: blamb@farmland.org or 502.795.0330.**