PA Farm Link, in partnership with other organizations, has provided the following resources to commonwealth farmers:

- Planning the Future of your Farm Workbook
- Farm Family Communications Guide
- Healthy Minds, Healthy Farms
- Mentorship Program
- Long-Term Leasing Booklet
- Farm Succession Podcasts & Webinars
- Long-Term Leasing Agreements
- Women in Agriculture Webinars
- Specialty Crop Wholesale Tool Box

**Land - Linking Database**

Our land-linking database contains a compilation of beginning/entering farmer and landowner profiles for farmland leasing or purchasing opportunities. This database is confidential and provides farmers privacy while seeking a potential match for their farming goals.

**Farm Succession Facilitation**

As International Farm Transition Network (IFTN) certified farm succession facilitators, PA Farm Link staff members offer farm families an opportunity to discuss future farm plans in an effective, open manner through facilitated discussion and workbooks.

**Referral & Consultation**

Our goal is to direct any farmer to the help they need. This can include referring farmers to ag professionals in their area and directing farmers to AgriStress helpline for mental health issues. We discuss topics such as beginning farmer needs, farm succession, available resources, and more.

**Educational Resource Hub**

We have compiled an all-inclusive resource hub for farmers seeking information on topics ranging from business planning to stress management. Recordings from our live events are also available within our resource hub.
Pennsylvania Farm Link (PFL) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization working to “Link Farmers to the Future.” PA Farm Link works closely with the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture and other agricultural organizations and businesses across the commonwealth to support PA farmers.

In 27+ years of operation, PA Farm Link has assisted farmers through four services. PA Farm Link has facilitated farm succession meetings for commonwealth farmers in addition to providing consultation and referral services. The online land-linking database connects farmers with current landowners seeking someone to buy or lease their land. PA Farm Link also provides educational opportunities through a comprehensive online resource hub, webinars, and workshops.

Please enjoy this booklet as we review the history of PA Farm Link and recognize those who made this non-profit possible.
1993  PA Farm Link was founded 
John Vogel founded PA Farm Link under the 
Center for Rural PA, with a land-linking database 
as main avenue of farmer outreach 

1996  Workshop sessions begin 
Pa Farm Link starts offering 2 beginning farmer 
workshops 

1997  Land-linking database online 
Database goes online and available 24/7 for 
farmers and landowners 

2009  New executive director 
Darlene Livingston becomes PA Farm Link’s 
Executive Director 

2009  PFL hosts IFTN certified succession 
coordinator training 
24 ag professionals attended the training and 
18 were certified as facilitators 

2011  Educational tools developed 
Beginning Farmer Marketing Specialty Crop 
Guide were finalized for distribution. Monthly 
newsletter was developed, facebook page was 
made, and a new logo was designed 

2013  Penn State Ag & Shale Law 
Center partnership 
Partnered with Penn State Ag & Shale Law 
Center to create a leasing guide. Released 2nd 
edition of Planning the Future of Your Farm 
workbook 

2013  Communication tools developed 
2018 Created Farm Family Communications 
booklet was designed for distribution 

2014  Growing partnerships 
Worked with 2,458 agricultural professionals 
from over 18 organizations and agencies to 
provide pertinent programming to farmers 
Commonwealth-wide 

2015  Continued education 
Began hosting Ag Professional farm succession 
continued education webinars annually 

2016  First quarter successes 
Two database matches and two grants received 

2018  Grant-funded research 
Received funding from NERME and SCBG to provide 
educational tools on women in agriculture and long 
term leasing agreements for specialty crop farmers 

2020  Expanding audience reach 
Utilized webinars, podcasts, social media, 
tradeshows, and workshops to reach over 1,200 
farmers. Began farm succession blog 

2022  Pennsylvania Edition of Planning the Future of Your Farm workbook 

2023  Managed Growing Pennsylvania’s Organic 
Farms Conference
THE PEOPLE WHO MADE IT POSSIBLE

John Vogel
John was the editor of Pennsylvania Farmer when he realized the need for a farm succession organization in Pennsylvania. He and a number of key actors laid the foundation for today’s PA Farm Link by originally starting the organization underneath the umbrella of the Center for Rural PA. Three years later, the organization became a 501c3 where it operated as a private non-profit.

Lawrence Lentz
Lawrence operated as a representative of Center for Rural PA where he conducted foundational research on other farm link organizations throughout the United States. He participated in the advisory committee, wrote the goals and objectives, and acted as Secretary.

Marion Bowlan
Marion operated as the first executive director from 1996-2007. She was heavily involved in the original IFTN program and recognized the importance of the small farms in Pennsylvania landscape. Marion redefined small farms as a business at the state legal level.

Cheryl Burns
Cheryl Burns worked under Marion Bowlan at PA Farm Link. Upon Marion’s departure as executive director, Cheryl Burns held position of interim executive director.

Darlene Livingston
Darlene became executive director in 2009. Since her start with PA Farm Link, she has obtained countless grants, increased the audience base substantially, developed a professional website for the organization, gained valuable partnerships, and became heavily involved in the IFTN program where she currently operates as a committee member.
JOHN VOGEL
FOUNDER

John Vogel was born in Humboldt County, IA where he farmed for 15 years and gained 13 years of publishing experience. Upon moving to Pennsylvania, John became editor for American Agriculturist, formerly known as the Pennsylvania Farmer.

Through his reporting and editing in the agricultural industry, John saw a vital need for an organization that could assist commonwealth farm owners with farm succession planning as well as provide land-linking opportunities. In coordination with the Center for Rural Pennsylvania, he founded PA Farm Link. John’s vision for PA Farm Link was to, “Give farmers a vehicle of knowledge and education to be more inclusive than just their male family members.”

With assistance from the Department of Agriculture, PA Farm Link began their land-linking database with 20 prospective farmers. John rallied PFL support from the Center for Rural PA, Penn State, the National Grange, local politicians, and a myriad of ag professionals throughout the MidAtlantic. By-laws and a board were formed as result of the connections John made on behalf of PA Farm Link, many of which are still reflected in our current board!

John has operated as president of PA Farm Link for several terms and has been an active board member. Without his continuous efforts and devotion to PA Farm Link’s mission, the organization would not be here today.

His legacy:

“Continue investing in people and livelihoods for opportunity to excel, continue to have a board reflective of Pennsylvania agriculture, and maintain integrity with farms and farmers.”

John looks forward to seeing PFL continue providing services to Commonwealth farmers. He hopes to see the organization sustainably grow and accommodate the evolving needs of future generations of farmers “It’s about seeing a cause and a need that is out there.”

On behalf the staff of PA Farm Link and the farmers who have benefited from our services:

Thank you!
2022 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

5,800 Farmers received assistance through our services

3 Successful matches with Land/farmer completed transactions

1,117 Attendees at workshops and webinars

152 Ag Professionals involved with PA Farm Link education

124 Sessions completed through the mentorship program pilot

228 Potential matches made through the land-linking database

44,986 People reached through social media outreach

53 New farmer and landowner listings added to the database

24 Organization partnerships throughout the commonwealth & USA
Rob Goodling speaking at the 2023 Farm Succession Workshop in Chester county

John Vogel awarded the Founders Award on April 20, 2023

PFL Board visits Pittsburgh’s Braddock Farms

Re Farm Cafe’s Duke Gastiger speaks at PFL Board meeting

Cornucopia event at the PA State Capitol Complex

2022 IFTN Conference

Western PA Grazing Conference

PA FARM LINK MOMENTS
PA FARM LINK FUTURE

DATABASE
- Increase listings and database awareness
- Continue linking beginning farmers with landowners

EDUCATION
- Increase webinar and workshop opportunities to provide relevant and valuable resources

MARKETING
- Plan to be developed in 2023 and implemented in 2024.
GET INVOLVED TODAY

We are eager to foster more partnerships and gain sponsors who support our mission of linking farmers to the future.

CONTACT US TODAY:

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