

## Unique Opportunity for a Community-Oriented Farmer



A local landowner seeks an entrepreneurial and community-oriented farmer to develop a diverse small farm in Dracut, MA. The Farm at Air Hill consists of approximately 15 acres of prime farm soils and 5 acres of surrounding woods that abut conservation land. It's located on the dead end of a small residential street. The land has been well cared for and has organic certification. Many enterprise options are suitable and welcome.

The selected farmer will be offered an affordable, secure, long-term lease starting with a trial period. The landowner will work with the farmer to decide and plan for farm buildings and other infrastructure to meet the farmer's business vision and needs. A good sized house awaits the owner's renovations that will accommodate the farmer and his or her family. Farm infrastructure could include a barn, sheds, fencing, prep and processing facilities, a commercial-scale kitchen, cold storage facilities, equipment, and/or a small farm stand, for example.

This is a rare opportunity for a farmer with experience and vision. The farmer will be encouraged to incorporate educational and outreach components that will both engage the community and enhance The Farm at Air Hill. The landowner's goal is to enable a successful, sustainable farming operation that interacts with the community. Examples include connections with local schools, on-farm demonstrations, "open farm days", and/or classes.

In the spirit of partnership, the landowner is open to the farmer's creative and practical considerations, and to various supportive financial arrangements. Innovation will be encouraged. The owner will foster the farm with her considerable community and market connections, while the farmer is free to implement his or her business plan. Future plans might include collaborations with area nonprofits or establishing one.

Dracut is a densely populated town about 30 miles from Boston. Markets are abundant, including restaurants, institutional markets such as schools, UMass Lowell and regional hospitals. There is potential to rent additional farmland.

Through an application process, the landowner will select a qualified farmer or farm family. The landowner and farmer will plan the improvements and renovations together. After a two-year trial lease, the farmer will be offered a longer term with options for renewal.

An open house is scheduled for January 9, 2016 with an application deadline of February 1. Interested farmers please email [kathy@landforgood.org](mailto:kathy@landforgood.org) for open house and application information.

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**Classified version:**

Secure, long-term lease for experienced, entrepreneurial and community-oriented farmer for 15A prime soils and a house, 30 miles from Boston. Landowner open to supportive financial arrangements for farm infrastructure. Abundant markets and potential collaborations. Details [here](#) under "The Farm at Air Hill." Contact [kathy@landforgood.org](mailto:kathy@landforgood.org) for January 9, 2016 open house and application information.