

Land Access for Beginning Farmers

- a. **Convener(s)** – Adam Calo – *adamcalo@berkeley.edu*
- b. **Participants**
- c. **Summary**

Inquiries –

- What are the mechanisms available for beginning farmers → savings, sponsorship, etc.
- Land transfer strategies for retiring farmers
- Incubation programs for beginners and aspirants
- Land access as a structural/systematic rather than a technical issue

Concerns –

- Availability of land in CA, availability of urban and small scale land
- Many ag training programs but only a few land access programs
- Access – legal right to work land versus practical land use.
- Quantity versus quality of the land
- Racially skewed farmer tenant situation
- What are the pros and cons of leasing land and they being beholden to stakeholder?

Info/Resources –

- Workshop Sun SM
- Mapping tool to help identify land available
- Unused land resources – church lawns, etc
- ALBA Organic – starts with students receiving ½ acre, builds over time comes with training
- Oregon – Adelante Mujeres – 14-week farmer training program
- SLO City Farm – funded partnership btw city and non-profit
- AB 55/ law – offers landholders tax incentives to put spare land to use
- CA Farmlink advises on drawing up ag leases – major assistance

Options/Next steps –

- Creating more partnerships w/ institutions – cities, universities, corporations? Etc.
- City Sanitary Districts have hundreds of acres of buffer land. Could tap in, but so much red tape
- Contra Costa sustainable farmland – shovels for schools
- Farmland LP – investment firm buying conventional ag land and elp transition to organic
- Need more of a focus on renters' rights, awareness, activism, legal advocates