



United States Department of Agriculture



Economic Research Service



PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

Workshop explores changing dynamics of farm ownership, financing

OAK BROOK, IL April 27, 2016: The combination of strong non-farmer investor interest in agricultural resources, and use of more diverse business organization tools by farmer landowners are changing the landscape of farmland ownership and tenure patterns.

Exploring the implications of these evolving trends is the focus of a workshop planned June 6-7, 2016, at the Brown Hotel, Louisville, KY. Farm Foundation, NFP is organizing this workshop in collaboration with USDA's Economic Research Service, and Bank of America Merrill Lynch. The program is posted on the [Farm Foundation website](http://www.farmfoundation.org).

"Several years of strong commodity prices, combined with high demand for those commodities, fueled investor interest in agricultural resources worldwide," says Farm Foundation, NFP President Neil Conklin. "Commodity prices have cooled significantly, but interest in farmland investments remains strong."

Investors outside the agricultural sector are buying farmland, including financial services firms and pension and mutual fund companies. Agriculture-only REITS are also now part of the farmland market. At the same time, other financial developments are at play in the agricultural finance sector. Farmers seeking to keep their land, invest in capital assets, adapt to changing supply chains or expand operations are turning to a wide array of organizational tools, such as C- and S-corporations.

"It is clear that trends in farmland ownership and tenure patterns are changing," Conklin says. "This workshop will explore the current interest in farmland, the players driving it, and the implications for farmland ownership and tenure."

The program for the day-and-a-half workshop features farmer landowners, academic researchers and lenders, including representatives of commercial banks, Farm Credit, insurance companies and the investment community. The program will also examine the relationship of ownership and

financing to farm policies, including programs targeted to credit, conservation, commodities and crop insurance.

“This workshop is targeted to farmers, landowners, investors and members of the finance, agribusiness and public policy communities. All are key players whose actions are shaping the trends in farmland ownership and agricultural finance which, in turn, has potential implications for the social and political environments in which they operate,” Conklin says.

There is no charge to participate in the workshop, but registration is requested and can be [completed online](#).

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