

Alyssa Adkins
Farthest Field Farm
LD 593

I am a co-owner of Farthest Field Farm in Freeport, a small no-till farm using organic practices to make pantry staples like hot sauce, salsa, and more available year-round. We also grow food for our community in the form of a winter greens CSA, vegetables for sale at farmers markets, and host a yearly seedling sale.

My partner and I were incredibly lucky to find and buy our farm's permanent home, but it was not easy. We were competing with developers in our neighborhood who were able to walk in with suitcases of cash to make a same-day purchase. Such a development sale happened just up the road from what is now our farm in the same month that we found the land. But choosing a spot for a farm requires water and soil testing and research, and walking the land to take note of whether it will work for the necessary infrastructure, not to mention securing appropriate loans. It is not a same-day decision, and nor do most aspiring farmers have suitcases of cash on hand. We just happened to find land being sold by someone who was willing to take the listing off-market and work with us over time, finally ending our two year search for land.

Finding land for future farmers will only become more impossible and reliant on the vagaries of luck, unless we actively and aggressively work to preserve natural spaces and farmland. Please support LD593 to ensure future young farmers like us have easier access to land to do the hard work of growing much-needed food for Mainers.