

Creative Financing for Farm Enterprise Succession

Resource List

Land Trusts & Easements

- **Organizations**
 - [Equity Trust](#) - Great background information on the role of land trusts and easements in farm preservation. They offer model documents as well.
 - [One Farm at a Time](#) - Initiative developed to preserve farmland in perpetuity, starting with Good Humus Produce.
 - [Land for Good](#) - Based in the northeast, they publish resources, provide trainings, and host convenings to support long term land stewardship, including working with land trusts and easements.
 - [Land Trust Alliance](#) - National land trust association with resources and fact sheets for landowners interested in using agricultural conservation easements in farmland succession.
- **Resources**
 - [Finding Farmland](#) (Guide) - Farmer's Guide to Working with Land Trusts published by National Young Farmers' Coalition
 - [Conservation and Affordability on Working Lands](#) (Report) - Nine case studies published by CA Farmlink on different models for farmers working with land trusts.
 - [Farmland and Farmers for the Future](#) (Video) - Published by Equity Trust, part of its "Preserving Farms for Farmers" program.

Worker-owned Cooperatives

- **Organizations**
 - [California Center for Cooperative Development](#) - Providing technical assistance, education, and convenings to support cooperative enterprises in California.
 - [US Federation of Worker Cooperatives](#) - Membership organization for worker-owned cooperatives throughout the United States.
 - [Democracy at Work Institute](#) - Research and technical assistance arm of USFWC, provides support for co-op developers, focused on worker-owned cooperatives.
 - [Project Equity](#) - Specializing in technical assistance for converting businesses to worker cooperatives.
 - [Sustainable Economies Law Center](#) - Providing legal education and services to developing worker-owned cooperative enterprises.
 - [Network of Bay Area Worker Cooperatives](#) (NOBAWC) - NoBAWC is membership-based association dedicated to helping build the worker cooperative

movement in the San Francisco Bay Area and beyond. NoBAWC provides support for members, develops new worker cooperatives and offers assistance to those developing worker cooperatives.

- [National Center for Employee Ownership](#) - The National Center for Employee Ownership is a private, nonprofit membership and research organization that serves as a source of accurate, unbiased information on employee stock ownership plans (ESOPs), equity compensation plans such as stock options, and ownership culture.
- [ICA Group](#) - Based in Northampton, MA, ICA Group is a technical assistance provider to help start and convert worker owned businesses.

- **Resources**

- [Cooperative Farming](#) (Guide) - A guide published by The Greenhorns that provides an introduction to various forms of cooperative farm enterprises, including worker-owned cooperatives.
- [Introduction to Worker Cooperatives for Farmers](#) (Webinar) - Hosted by National Young Farmers Coalition and Democracy at Work Institute, introduces concept and function of worker cooperative farm enterprises.
- [Steps to Starting A Worker Co-op](#) (Guide) - A guide describing the steps to forming a worker co-op, published by UC Center for Cooperatives.
- [Empezando una Cooperativa de Trabajadores](#) (Guía)- Una guía que describe como iniciar una cooperativa de trabajadores, publicado por el Centro de Cooperativas de la Universidad de California.
- [Legal Sourcebook for California Cooperatives: Start-Up and Administration](#) (Guide) - A detailed guide with legal information on starting up and operating a cooperative in California. Published by UC Center for Cooperatives. (*Note: this publication is not fully updated for subsequent changes in the law or other information provided herein.*)

Community Capital

- **Lenders**

- [Shared Capital Cooperative](#) - A national loan fund and Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI) that provides funding to cooperative businesses.
- [Working World](#) - Helps finance worker-cooperative businesses in low-income communities.
- [Capital Impact Partners](#) - A nonprofit CDFI that funds cooperatives and projects that increase access to healthy foods.
- [California FarmLink](#) - A nonprofit CDFI making operating, infrastructure and land loans to farmers and ranchers.

- [Northern California Community Loan Fund](#) - A nonprofit CDFI that primarily lends to projects in Northern and Central California.
- [Economic Development and Financing Corporation](#) - A nonprofit CDFI that provides economic development financing in Lake and Mendocino Counties.
- **Organizations**
 - [Cutting Edge Capital](#) - A firm that specializes in community capital raising strategies for small and medium-scale enterprises.
- **Resources**
 - [Grassroots Financing Guide for Farmers](#) (Guide)- A guide to different methods of raising money for a farm enterprise from your community, published by Sustainable Economies Law Center.
 - [CommunityEnterpriseLaw.org](#) (Online Library) - An online resource library that provides legal information on community-based financing of enterprises, curated by the Law Center.
 - [Harvesting Opportunity: The Power of Regional Food System Investments to Transform Communities](#) (Report) - A new book on local food system opportunities, by the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis, the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System and the U.S. Department of Agriculture's agencies of Rural Development and the Agricultural Marketing Service.

Other financing and succession resources

- [Farm Succession Guidebook](#) published by California FarmLink.
- [Guide to Farm Service Agency Loans](#), published by National Young Farmers Coalition.
- [“Carrying On: Challenges and Hopes of Farm Succession in the Organic Sector.”](#) CCOF Magazine, Spring 2017.
- [Transferring Your Farm or Ranch](#) - An online resource of the Farmland Information Center, with contributions from Land for Good and others.

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