LAND ACCESS AND OWNERSHIP

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Opportunities in Tennessee



Introduction: In 2017, there were 908,274 young producers in the U. S. with 23,179 new and beginning farmers in TN. About 16,310 farmed as principal operators for ≤10 years.

Objective: Identify issues and opportunities in land access, tenure, and ownership.

Methodology: Project uses existing data, local, state, farmers, leaders, advisors, researchers, private, public partners, and volunteers teams up to help participants. Electronic tools, mail, interviews, surveys, agents, outreach, and contacts are used to identify, recruit mentors and project advisors.

Protect Inheritance	Independent	Family Life
Enjoy Rural Life		Self Employment
Self Sufficient	Generate Income \$\$\$	Love of Land
Freedom		Way of Life
Growing Own Food		Self- Worth
Land Ownership	Creating Farm Community	Autonomy

COLLABORATORS:

AgriCenter, UT and TSU Extension Agents, Land Trust of TN, Square O Consulting, LLC., Community Leaders, Volunteers, Financial Institutions, TN Department of Agriculture, USDA State Offices, Public, Private and local Organizations.

Acknowledgements and Thanks To:
USDA/NIFA/AFRI/Small Farms program
for funding the project
Enefiok Ekanem, Retired Professor of
Agribusiness program, TSU who secured
this grant #13089317
Project collaborators for providing input
College of Agriculture for support

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Results: Show lack of access, capital, skills, land, labor, finances, interest, planning, experience, mentors, training, and succession among other problems. Farming offers several opportunities in access, ownership, employment, income, independence, self-esteem, fulfillment in doing what is loved, rural life and more! Conclusion: Needs exist for user-friendly curriculum, training, technical assistance, mentors, policies for farmers and individuals seeking to access agricultural land.