

YOUR FARMS FOR OUR FARMS

Through your generous donation, you will join our efforts to transform lives.

Farms tell the history of generations of family members who tended their soils with great care, determination, and dedication, producing food and feedstuffs. Just as a farm supports a family over the years, it can also make a difference in keeping Illinois at the forefront of applied research in agriculture. Gifting farmland to benefit the College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences (ACES) at the University of Illinois can aid in fulfilling its land-grant mission by supporting its research infrastructure and human capital building efforts.

Your Farms for Our Farms is a giving program in which donations of farmland directly benefit applied research, infrastructure at research farms, students, and researchers. By gifting farmland to the University of Illinois Foundation, donors partner with the College of ACES in conducting transformational research, preparing students for career success, and ensuring that research discoveries are translated into practice, advancing food and agricultural industries to the next level of excellence. Income from the ongoing successful operation of a gifted farm will serve as a perpetual funding source for the college's mission of applied research and outreach. Being at the cutting edge of research and having access to state-of-the-art farming technologies will transform student and faculty experiences to ensure that future generations of Illinois' farmers continue to lead the world in food and agriculture production.



OPPORTUNITY:

Throughout our 150-year history, the University of Illinois has been the grateful beneficiary of many gifts of farmland, and the College of ACES currently receives income from 6,100 acres of donated farmland held for its exclusive benefit. *Your Farms for Our Farms* seeks to create a sustainable funding platform to specifically benefit the college's applied research enterprise, taking world-class research discoveries from the lab to the field, and offering students unique experiential learning opportunities. The college's research farms are living outdoor laboratories where ideas bloom into transformative science and practical applications that benefit consumers, farmers, commodity groups, the State of Illinois economy, and society as a whole.

As part of its land-grant mission, the College of ACES assumes production and financial risks associated with investigative research and technology integration to support farmer's success. The research and teaching infrastructure required to do this is costly and the methods used are often labor intensive. Creating a reliable funding source ensures that unique research facilities and capabilities are available to further the economic viability of the College of ACES to support the success of Illinois farming enterprises. Unique research capabilities attract projects and partners that bring additional funding to the College of ACES. The availability of faculty expertise coupled with outstanding applied research facilities keeps the college competitive for grant funding, as well as for industry-based technical testing partnerships. These dollars are then available for reinvestment, multiplying the impact of a farmland gift and creating a perpetual funding platform for scientific advancements in agriculture.

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Modern research facilities, including agricultural production operations, provide an optimal environment for preparing students for career success. Having access to high-impact, immersion-based experiential learning opportunities in settings closely aligned with those they will encounter in their professional careers, ensures that graduates from the College of ACES have the necessary skills required to create advancements in any agricultural context they encounter. It is imperative to maintain and improve research facilities to ensure students are able to safely participate in hands-on learning and applied research opportunities.

In addition to the benefit to the College of ACES, gifts of farmland to the University of Illinois Foundation can play a critical role in planning a landowner's financial future. The College of ACES recognizes that farm owners have strong emotional ties to their land. Many farms have been in the same family for 100 years or more, and owners are seeking peace of mind about how the farm will be managed in the future. A well-planned charitable gift of a family farm to the University of Illinois Foundation can provide significant tax benefits to donors, in addition to solving farm management and personal income challenges. When reviewing lease applications for donated farmland, the College of ACES and the University of Illinois Foundation consider farming experience, demonstrated land stewardship, educational background, utilization of best management practices, and fair market lease price in the farm area during the selection process to ensure that the best operator is identified for each specific farm.

RESOURCES REQUIRED:

Technological upgrades, supporting facilities, and general operations to ACES experimental research farms require an annual operating budget of approximately \$15 million to sustain current output levels. To be able to address the most challenging research questions of our day in the agricultural industry at a time of continued declining state funding allocations, a combination of sustained farm income and outright support are required. By making a gift of farmland to the College of ACES, your farm will help support efforts on our farms to maintain the vibrancy of the agricultural industry in the State of Illinois.



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