

How can I get involved?

You may want:

1. Help to consider the future of your farm or land and the option to put it into trust for the benefit of your local community
2. Support to start or develop a community farm
3. To attend the CFLT conference (21-22 November 2005)
4. To attend a workshop
5. A presentation about CFLTs
6. An Action Pack (from Spring 2007)
7. More information – see website below



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Supporting action research into community land trusts as part of its commitment to asset based rural community development



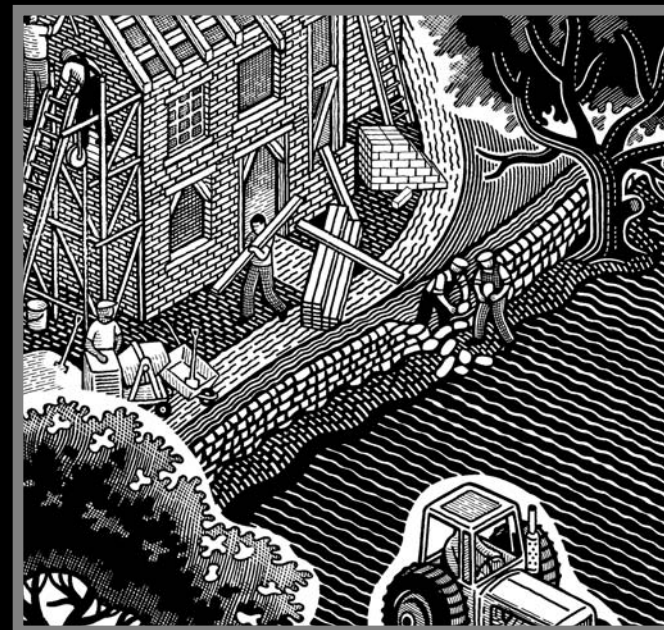
Improving rural livelihoods through co-operative and social enterprise



STROUD COMMON WEALTH
 Enabling community land trust development and social enterprise

COMMUNITY FARM LAND TRUSTS

Reconnecting land and people



Enabling the development and establishment of community farm land trusts primarily for the purpose of sustainable agriculture and horticulture, controlled by and for the benefit of local communities

An Action Research Project 2005-7

Why is there a need for Community Farm Land Trusts?

There is a crisis in farming, as small and medium sized farms continue to go out of business. The average age of farmers is increasing and farm incomes are decreasing. Farmers are often isolated in fragmented communities and the costs of buying or leasing farms prevents entry to young farmers. Many have the skills and motivation but little capital. At the same time, the demand for good, locally grown food increases and people want to re-connect with local farms and build sustainable rural communities.

'As third generation tenant farmers of Fordhall Farm, we see community farm ownership as the way to secure the land for continuing community benefit – for food growing, wildlife, access, enterprises, heritage, education activities and offering a 'green lung' to Market Drayton.'
Charlotte and Ben Hollins, Farmers



Farms are special, each with a unique story and sense of place and the potential to animate the local rural community through community ownership.

The Community Farm Land Trust Project

This action research project investigates how existing community-owned farm land trusts operate. The project will pool this experience, evaluate the range of benefits for the community, identify best practise and create an action pack. This resource will aid the establishment of new community farm land trusts that build sustainable rural communities and enable continued affordable access for farmers.

Project Activities

The project will:

- Research case studies and good practise
- Establish a forum for collaboration, learning and action between farmers, community farm initiatives and other supportive organisations
- Work with 2-3 community farm projects
- Run a Community Farm Land Trusts action learning conference (November 2005)
- Make policy recommendations
- Produce an Action Pack
- Disseminate learning through a website, talks and workshops

What will be the result of the project?

We expect to see a range of outcomes including:

- Ways for communities to determine land use
- Mechanisms for enabling young entrant farmers to access permanently affordable farms
- New organisational structures
- Farm tenancy agreements and social land use agreements for a range of community benefits
- Increased local involvement and co-operation with other farmers and enterprises
- New ways of raising working capital and financial support
- Development of local food economies – getting a higher and a fairer return for products
- Biodiverse farms accessible to the public
- Reconnection of farms with local community
- Access to farms for education, work, leisure
- Building of community capacity, trust, social inclusion and networks

