



# Barriers to accessing Ag funding

Land Trust & State Agency Retreat 2024



# APR Program

- Takes too long to close (2+ years)----18months should be doable
- \$ Per acre cap limit-----up to \$34k/acre (and only for MDAR portion)
- Minimum 5 acre eligibility
- Soils eligibility-----there is no soil requirement for APR
- Commercial Ag requirement (affirmative covenant)
- 50% required from non-MDAR source (usually use ACEP ALE)
- Additional 5-10% local contribution requirement
- Won't rank well enough/discouraged to apply
- Impervious surface limitation
- OPAV requirement
- Trails "not allowed" ----- they are!
- Too Restrictive
- Don't want MDAR as holder
- Don't want federal involvement-----not required
- Don't allow Dwellings
- Too difficult to understand/not transparent
- Bad reputation

# Private APRs

- There is no state funding for them----**landscape partnership, others, RFR coming!!!!**
- Don't know about it/how it works



# Farm Viability Covenants

- Don't know about it/how it works?
- [Farm Viability Enhancement Program \(FVEP\) | Mass.gov](#)
- Provides one on one business planning assistance and technical assistance in areas of need such as family succession, marketing, or financial tracking
- Grant funds of \$100,000 - \$200,000 for identified farm improvement projects in return for signing an agricultural covenant on the farm property to keep it in agricultural use for a 10 or 15-year term
- Can do the program twice – so up to \$400k for up to 30 year term
- APR now offers a fast tract to "graduates" to permanent protection via APR

