

## **Beginning Farmer Learning Network Meeting**

March 8, 2013

Voorheesville, NY

### **Severine von Tscharner-Fleming – The Greenhorns**

- 400 million acres transitioning to new farmers over next 20 years
- Greenhorns approach in last 6 years has been helping with beginning farmer resources and grassroots organizing - trying to get young farmers to articulate their own vision for agriculture transformation
- Freedom and Unity: spirit of new farming community
- Land transitions take so much time (land and labor hours high in doing transfers.)
- Innovation is happening on the ground, one farm at a time all over the country – to make progress in the field of land access, we need to look at local examples
- New Agrarian Trust
  - Find unique land transfers
  - Evaluate them using the principles outlined
  - Goal is to accelerate land transitions
- Have 13 pilot cases that they are studying right now (from this, in phase 2 – will drive philanthropy to build out strategies to increase speed of land transfer)
- Deadlines are better than breadlines!
- “Affording our Land” is a guide for farmers – open-source guide, includes all information on financing – available on Greenhorns website at [thegreenhorns.net](http://thegreenhorns.net)
- MAJOR PRINCIPLE – transparency

### ***Other Principles***

- Drive their actions
  - Long-term security for farmers
  - Farmers build equity
  - Creates conditions for soil health, sustainable agriculture, and secure investment for the farmer
  - Builds adaptable, re-useable tools, templates, models for use by other groups in transacting land deals (transparency)
  - Agreements are clear, well considered, relationship-driven
  - Support a diversity of approaches, farmers and partners
  - Get the deals done – effectively and efficiently

- Communicate effectively about the issues at stake
- Make sure that the pilots and our own efforts are transparent and context driven
- Work to scale up the transfer of farmland to the next generation of sustainable farmers and ranchers
- Include slow-build approaches, include radical approaches
- Include alternatives to credit and alternatives to ownership

→ Need to give space to learn from local examples (and give beginning farmers access to these examples) to accelerate land transition