Agricultural land is being developed faster than ever—with annual conversion rates up 51 percent in five years. At the same time, the public is increasingly ambitious about protecting water quality and wildlife habitat. As a result, the land best suited for farming is being squeezed between the forces of urban growth and environmental preservation.

Competition for land does not have to be adversarial. Landowners and managers can find a balance. American Farmland Trust's national Farming on the Edge conference will bring together people who are achieving this balance in communities across the country. They will explore creative ideas, offer inspiring examples and describe time-tested ways to keep land in agricultural production, manage growth, address environmental concerns and strengthen agriculture.

The goal of the conference is to bring together people to share new information, analyze their successes and learn by example.

**Enacting Effective Planning and Growth Management Policies**
What does it take to create and carry out effective planning and growth management policies that support agriculture, protect land, solve the affordable housing crisis and/or control sprawl? Learn about real-life examples of how existing policies are working across the country.

**Protecting Land with Agricultural Conservation Easements**
Find out how agricultural conservation easements can help protect the land base and ensure a viable future for agriculture. Discuss the development and implementation of effective farmland protection programs and learn practical lessons for working with landowners.

**Improving Stewardship of Agricultural Land**
Learn about programs and activities to improve conservation and stewardship practices on agricultural land. Hear first-hand experiences and creative ideas of how land managers, landowners and their communities are implementing effective stewardship of working lands.

**Increasing Agricultural Economic Viability**
It's not farmland without farmers! Discover what farmers, nonprofits, public agencies and communities are doing to keep agriculture viable in rapidly developing areas—from direct marketing, agri-tourism and community-supported agriculture, to private conservation options, farm link programs and estate planning.