

Biographical Sketch

Clarissa (Cris) Coffin

Cris Coffin joined Land For Good in November, 2015 as the organization's first Policy Director. In this position, Cris directs Land For Good's state and federal policy work around farm succession and transfer, land tenure, and farmland access in collaboration with agricultural and conservation partners in New England and nationally. Prior to joining Land For Good, Cris served as New England Director for [American Farmland Trust \(AFT\)](#) from 2001 to 2015. At AFT she played a key role in building public and political support for state farmland protection programs and policies, helping communities plan proactively for agriculture, and forging multi-state and multi-sector coalitions to address regional food system challenges. Cris is a co-author of the 2014 report [New England Food Policy: Building a Sustainable Food System](#), and directed AFT's 2015 regional research project, [Gaining Insights, Gaining Access](#), on farm transition in New England.

Cris has served as a consultant to both the Vermont and Wisconsin Departments of Agriculture, and held several positions in the U.S. Senate, including: Legislative Assistant to Senator Jim Sasser; Professional Staff Member on the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry; and Legislative Assistant and Chief of Staff to Senator Herb Kohl. Cris holds a B.A. in geography from the University of Massachusetts-Amherst and a J.D. from Georgetown University Law Center. She sits on the Network Advisory Council of [Farm to Institution New England](#) and is a member of her town's Agricultural Commission. Cris is also a part-time farmer; she and her husband Roland, a Vietnam veteran, raise pastured poultry on their farm in western Massachusetts and direct market their chicken and eggs to restaurants, stores and schools.