

ACTIONS TO USHER IN A BETTER FUTURE FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE:

2. Anti-Racist Food and Farm Policy



Historic discrimination and exploitation of BIPOC farmers, ranchers, and workers must be actively addressed and remedied. Policy must intentionally create equitable access for BIPOC folks to land and credit, market opportunities, safe working conditions, a seat at the policy development table, access to culturally relevant training and technical assistance, and just treatment by all Federal agencies.

SUPPORT EXISTING LEGISLATION

- Justice for Black Farmers Act of 2020 - (116th: S.4929)
- Safe Line Speeds in COVID-19 Act - (116th: H.R.7521/S.4338)
- Appropriate 1890 college payments, 1890 cooperative extension funds, 1994 land grant college payments, and the 1994 endowment fund to the same federal level as 1862 land grant college payments and cooperative extension funds, and require states to meet the federal match.

URGE ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION

- Suspend implementation of the New Swine Slaughter Inspection System. (USDA)
- Authorize the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau to investigate claims of discrimination by Farm Credit Service (FCS) institutions, and require FCS to meet SDFR lending goals.

CHAMPION NEW LEGISLATION AND ACTION

- Allow all CDFIs to pay back only the interest on a loan to all federal financiers, and reinvest the principal amount into Community Development.
- Require the USDA-NASS Farm Labor Survey to report on employee work related injury, illness, and deaths.
- Create a federal fund with mandatory contribution by mega-food chain employers to place food chain workers who have left due to exploitative conditions to gain employment in an independent, non-monopolized entity in the same sector, including payments to current and former food chain workers who experienced adverse health and exploitative working conditions.
- Forgive student loan debt so farmers and aspiring farmers may pursue agriculture without the massive burden of debt.
- Change USDA lending authority to prequalify beginning farmers for FSA loans, and provide no interest loans to beginning BIPOC farmers and BIPOC-led cooperatives.
- Authorize funding to support the creation of racial equity, diversity, and inclusion priorities in 4-H and other federal agricultural discovery programs curriculum so young people are empowered to pursue a career in agriculture.