

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

1. Curbing Globalized Concentration



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Multinational corporations have co-opted our agrifood system, subverting their primary goal – feeding people – and rather, using it as a means to gain profit and ultimately, power. We can begin to take control of our agrifood system with the right policy that prioritizes creating fair markets for everyone along the supply chain, allowing them to truly benefit from regenerative and resilient food systems. We must ensure the power to make decisions about the agrifood system lies in the hands of those who produce and consume food directly.

SUPPORT EXISTING LEGISLATION

- ☐ Food and Agribusiness Merger Moratorium and Antitrust Review Act of 2019 - (116th: H.R. 2933/S.1596)
- ☐ Farm System Reform Act - (116th: H.R.6718/S.3221)
- ☐ Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Reform Act - (116th: H.R.8522)
- ☐ Voluntary Checkoff Program Participation Act - (116th: H.R.5699/S.934)
- ☐ Opportunities for Fairness in Farming Act - (116th: H.R.5563/3.935)

URGE ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION

- ☐ Initiate rulemaking to reinstate rules where the provisions in the 2010 Farmer Fair Practice Rules serve as the minimum threshold for farmer protections. (USDA)
- ☐ Create the Independent Farmer Protection Bureau, modeled after the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau. It would serve as a watchdog for threats to competitive markets and multinational corporate capture of research and program implementation. (USDA)

CHAMPION NEW LEGISLATION AND ACTION

- ☐ Increase funding, including for additional personnel, for full investigations and enforcement of the Packers and Stockyards Act of 1921. (Appropriations)
- ☐ Bar acquisitions or mergers that would result in a single entity's control of greater than 25% of a market, or the market's CR4 to surpass the 40% threshold.
- ☐ Ban the use of employment non-compete agreements for non-leadership employees.
- ☐ Ban the use of exclusionary contracts.
- ☐ Tie antitrust to fair labor laws by enforcing antitrust penalties to corporations that deny workers a fair wage through market collusion.
- ☐ Mandate federal government procurement of farm and food products from non-monopolistic entities and independent farmers and ranchers.

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

2. Anti-Racist Food and Farm Policy



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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.

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

3. Prioritize Resilience, Not Efficiency



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The breakdown of our food supply chain during COVID-19 has shown us the need for resiliency in our food systems. Five decades of prioritizing efficiency over everything has created the inflexible agrifood supply chain of today where only a few large firms make decisions for everyone along the supply chain. Corporations profit from wiping out their market competition, and creating a few, huge processing operations that are in many instances less efficient. When one of those operations goes offline, there are no viable operations left to step in and step up. Policy to increase competition, independence, social justice, and success of many smaller entities will ensure a long-lasting, resilient agrifood system that can better stand the shocks of pandemics, climate change, and foreign relations disruptions.

SUPPORT EXISTING LEGISLATION

- ☐ Farm System Reform Act - (116th: H.R.6718/S.3221)
- ☐ Agriculture Resilience Act - (116th: H.R.5861)

URGE ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION

- ☐ Develop and implement a national broadband connection plan that considers broadband a utility, and utilizes existing structures such as Rural Electric Cooperatives. (USDA)

CHAMPION NEW LEGISLATION AND ACTION

- ☐ Under congressional authority in the Farm Credit Act of 1971, require a 10% set aside of FCS profits to be re-lent to promote environmentally sustainable agriculture, prioritizing Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) and women farmers.
- ☐ Allow basic banking services (deposits, withdrawals, and bill payments) to be carried out through United State Postal Services offices to remedy financial service inaccessibility through physical bank branches or online banking in many rural communities.
- ☐ Lengthen FSA operating loan terms from 7 years to 20 years.
- ☐ Allow FSA farm ownership and conservation lines of credit to be transitioned to operating credit under the same term.
- ☐ Implement a path for transition from or combination of FSA Farm Loan Programs to other FSA loan programs such as marketing assistance and farm storage facility loans under an umbrella operating loan term.

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

4. Redefining the Status Quo



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Today's agrifood system is based on a false economic model that ignores and pushes the cost of externalities such as public health, environmental impacts, and community wellbeing onto taxpayers to subsidize them. For example, while industrial agriculture's runoff pollutes water and air, the very communities suffering from lack of economic opportunity are asked to foot the bill and clean it up. Everything from property rights, to feeding livestock, to rural development must be rethought in ways that acknowledge social and ecological consequences. Federal policy needs to go further, holding corporations accountable and actively creating the conditions that allow communities to reclaim their health, liberty, and economic opportunity.

SUPPORT EXISTING LEGISLATION

- ☐ Farm System Reform Act - (116th: H.R.6718/S.3221)
- ☐ Agriculture Resilience Act - (116th: H.R.5861)
- ☐ Food and Agribusiness Merger Moratorium and Antitrust Review Act of 2019 - (116th: H.R.2933/S.1596)
- ☐ Safe Line Speeds in COVID-19 Act - (116th:H.R. 7521/S.4338)

URGE ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION

- ☐ Require regional HHI measurements, and deploy additional contextual measures when evaluating merger requests. Depending on the application of the HHI, it does not detect financial control across sectors, nor does it account for geographic monopolies, which is of concern with so few agrifood corporations operating in the U.S. (FTC & DOJ)
- ☐ Amend merger and acquisition guidelines to reflect a review based on competition and end the use of the failed "efficiency rule" regarding consumer welfare standards. (FTC & DOJ)

CHAMPION NEW LEGISLATION AND ACTION

- ☐ Create an independent commission to study and examine true and full costs of industrialized agriculture to include but not be limited to its externalized costs on the environment, healthcare, local economies, and property values.
- ☐ Implement the Clyburn 10/20/30 Formula throughout all federal funding and spending allocations, which would direct at least 10% of investment be made in persistent poverty communities (counties where 20% or more of the population lives below the poverty line for the last 30 years).

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

5. Support Local and Regional Food Systems



As we rein in the power held by industrial agricultural corporations, we must simultaneously build a support system for farmers, ranchers, workers, and communities creating an accessible avenue for diverse independent businesses to become a prosperous, integral part of the agrifood supply chain. Through food production and consumption arrangements that root producers and consumers in place, we can reduce society's dependence on dominant agrifood firms, and build a brighter, more resilient agrifood system.

SUPPORT EXISTING LEGISLATION

- ☐ Farm System Reform Act - (116th: H.R.6718/S.3221)
- ☐ Strengthening Local Processing Act - (116th: H.R.7868/S.5066)
- ☐ Justice for Black Farmers Act of 2020 - (116th: S.4929)
- ☐ Increase appropriations to the USDA's Local Agricultural Marketing Program (LAMP), Healthy Food Financing Initiative (HFFI), and Gus Schumacher Nutrition Incentive Program (GusNIP).

URGE ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION

- ☐ Mandate USDA to implement rules that raise animal welfare standards under the National Organic Program for meat, eggs, and dairy similar to those issued in the 2017 Organic Livestock and Poultry Practice Rule.
- ☐ Provide oversight over the implementation of the order for USDA to examine the impacts of current land tenure disputes regarding heirs' property, fracture allotments, and colonias, and fully implement the program to allow operators on heirs' property to obtain a FSA farm number as directed in the 2018 Farm Bill.

CHAMPION NEW LEGISLATION AND ACTION

- ☐ Allow states to develop and implement cottage industry food programs with a 75% federal cost share.
- ☐ Create a local inspector program for small-scale processors.
- ☐ Allow Farmers Market and Local Food Promotion Program (FMLFPP) grants to be more accessible to local food aggregation centers and hubs.
- ☐ Establish tax incentives for individuals who invest in infrastructure for local and regional foods systems.
- ☐ Expand school, institution, and federal institution food procurement geographic preference to include local processed food products in addition to unprocessed foods.
- ☐ Order ERS to study and make recommendations on federal cooperative ownership standards, to remedy the current state patchwork policies regarding cooperative establishment, ownership, public-private collaboration, and operation.

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

6. Transition to a Just and Resilient Agrifood System



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As we transition to a brighter food system, we must not pull out the rug beneath farmers and ranchers stuck in the endless cycles of contracting and debt imposed by industrial agricultural interests. This requires a paradigm shift in our agricultural subsidy programs: intentionally moving towards crop, utility, and livestock subsidies that will feed U.S. citizens, instead of exhausting our soil and lining the pockets of corporations hungry for cheap commodities. A first step is to truly weigh the benefits and consequences of current subsidies. Shifting agricultural subsidies away from specific commodities to nutritious crops, practices, and programs will support farmers and ranchers in all sectors in a safe and just transition to a more prosperous agrifood system, economy, and environmental future.

SUPPORT EXISTING LEGISLATION

- ☐ Farm System Reform Act - (116th: H.R.6718/S.3221)
- ☐ Agriculture Resilience Act - (116th: H.R.5861)
- ☐ Justice for Black Farmers Act of 2020 - (116th: S.4929)

CHAMPION NEW LEGISLATION AND ACTION

- ☐ Order AMS to study and examine what crops, practices, and entities are subsidized in the agrifood system, how they are subsidized, how subsidies impact competition in markets, and how subsidies may be shifted to support diversified on-farm practices.
- ☐ Redirect federal support and subsidies to incentivize adoption of regenerative agricultural practices, and marketing food products to regional, independent markets.
- ☐ Prioritize Whole Farm Revenue Protection (WFRP) in federally supported crop insurance packages, and bolster outreach to insurance providers, so farmers and ranchers can diversify their farms with less financial risk.
- ☐ Bar agribusiness companies from implementing climate mitigation solutions if they are: 1) net polluters as defined by the EPA, or 2) control over 25% of their respective market(s).