

2023 FARM BILL WEEK OF ACTION



Providing More Support for Beginning and BIPOC Farmers



**OEFFA
POLICY**

Essential for our future

OEFFA members believe that providing more support for beginning and BIPOC farmers is necessary to build an equitable, robust, and resilient food system for our future.

When we make USDA programs more accessible, incentivize farm transition to beginning and BIPOC farmers, increase technical and financial assistance, and invest in urban agriculture, we support the future of farming—**benefitting all of us.**

The time for change is *now*

We must address our nation's current and historic inequities and build a robust and resilient food system for our future.

With nearly half of all U.S. farmland expected to change hands in the next two decades, now is the time to help historically underserved farmers get on the land and thrive in their businesses.

Talking points:

1

Beginning and BIPOC farmers are **disproportionately impacted** by limited affordable farmland, lack of capital and financing, and difficulty accessing markets and infrastructure.

2

Institutional racism has excluded BIPOC farmers from access to land, financial resources, and information, which continues to shape U.S. farming and land ownership demographics. **In 1910, there were almost 1 million Black farmers. Today, there are only about 45,000.** (Source: [National Young Farmers Coalition 2022 Survey](#))

3

Rising land prices, farmland consolidation, and urban development have put secure access to affordable farmland out of reach for many. **54% of young farmers and 75% of Black farmers say they currently need more access to land.** (Source: [National Young Farmers Coalition 2022 Survey](#))

4

Regenerative agriculture practices rooted in African, Indigenous, and traditional wisdom play a critical role in building food and farming systems that are diverse, sustainable, resilient, and respectful of our natural resources.

5

97% of young farmers report using sustainable practices and 88% of Black farmers report that one of their farm's primary purposes is conservation or regeneration. (Source: [National Young Farmers Coalition 2022 Survey](#))



Justice for Black Farmers Act of 2023

S. 96, H.R. 1167

Due in large part to harmful practices of the USDA, there's an estimated 95% less Black farmers today than there were in 1920. This bill would correct for some of this historical discrimination by enacting policies that protect Black farmers from losing their land, restoring the land base that has been lost, providing land grants to encourage a new generation of Black farmers, and implementing systemic reforms to help all family farmers in the U.S. *Cosponsored by OH Rep. Joyce Beatty*

Supporting Urban and Innovative Farming Act of 2023

S. 2591

Since it was authorized by the 2018 Farm Bill, the Office of Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production (OUAIP) has strengthened networks between growers and consumers in urban, suburban, and rural areas. This legislation would build on these successes by improving the content and delivery of technical assistance, scaling composting and food waste efforts, and improving access to grant funds for innovative farmers.

Crop Insurance for Future Farmers Act

H.R. 3904

Starting a farm means taking on significant risk and this bipartisan legislation would help beginning and veteran farmers by aligning the definition of "beginning farmer" to match most other USDA programs, extending crop and livestock protections to 10 years for new and beginning farmers.

Fair Credit for Farmers Act

S. 2668

Many small and mid-scale farmers and ranchers rely on Farm Service Agency (FSA) loans to fund their businesses and this bill would improve access and accountability for these loan services. It would also waive loan fees for historically underserved borrowers, limit over-collateralization on farm loans and protect farmers' homes, establish eligibility term limits, and improve transparency.

Expanding Childcare in Rural America (ECRA) Act

S. 1867, H.R. 3922

Childcare is expensive and difficult to find for many parents in rural areas. This bipartisan legislation would provide a rural childcare pilot program under USDA Rural Development and offer loans and grants to develop childcare services, training, and infrastructure in rural communities—ultimately improving the availability, quality, and affordability of childcare in agricultural communities. *Sponsored by OH Sen. Sherrod Brown*

Stay up-to-date on relevant marker bills by checking out our [Farm Bill Tracker](#).

**OEFFA
FARM BILL
TRACKER**



Visit our [2023 Farm Bill Platform](#) to learn more about why we need to provide more support for beginning and BIPOC farmers

CONTACTING YOUR MEMBERS OF CONGRESS

about providing support for beginning and BIPOC farmers

Phone Script:

Good [morning/afternoon/evening],

My name is _____. I am a [State] resident (if calling the Senate) **OR** I live in the Congressman/Congresswoman's district (if calling a member of the House). I'm calling as a member of the Ohio Ecological Food and Farm Association in regard to the 2023 Farm Bill.

I am concerned about _____ (i.e., local economies and community health). This issue is important to me because _____. [Senate/House Bill ###] addresses the issue by **include 2-3 of the above talking points**. Please ask the [Senator/Congressperson] to support this legislation. The member will be contributing to farmer viability, healthy local food economies, and food system resilience (pick and choose) by ensuring these measures make it into the final farm bill.

Social Media:

Captions:

- @legislator, the new farm bill provides a critical opportunity to address structural challenges in our agricultural system to better support beginning and BIPOC farmers.
- Land access is the top challenge reported by beginning and BIPOC farmers, and the leading reason they leave agriculture. @legislator, let's change this!
- Hey, @legislator, our food is grown for all, so all should have equitable access to being a farmer.

Hashtags:

#oeffapolicy #2023FarmBill, #supportbeginningfarmers, #supportBIPOCfarmers, #beginningfarmers, #BIPOCfarmers, #youngfarmer, #blackfarmersmatter

Downloadable graphic [here](#).



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