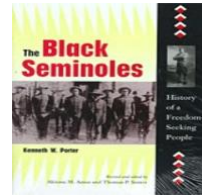




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RURAL
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Alabama
State
Association of
Cooperatives



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Building Support to a Full, Fair 2023 Farm Bill

For 45 years, the Rural Coalition has been a critical voice for Black, American Indian, Asian American, Euro-American, and Latino farmers, farmworkers, and rural communities in the United States. For over 30 years, World Farmers have supported small farmers in sustainable agricultural production and successful marketing practices to connect culturally relevant produce to viable markets.

Together, we seek just and sustainable food systems that bring fair returns to our diverse small farmers and ranchers, tribal and other small communities. We advocate for fair working conditions and dignity for farm workers as well as food chain workers, and healthy food for all. We have worked together with over 50 community based and national member organizations (see www.ruralco.org), securing passage of over 45 sections of policy in the past thirty years.

We look forward to working with you on the 2023 Farm Bill. Our goal is to build an equitable, sustainable food system that is beneficial to people of color, small farmers, rural and tribal farmers that protects the environment and enhances our communities by fighting for legislation.

We support a 2023 farm policy that will protect & support:

- ▶ **Climate:** Restore and build ecological and climate resilience for farms, forests, grasslands, rural communities, and food systems with fair access to support farmers and ranchers already engaged in building soil health and healing and protecting land, water, and air.
- ▶ **Fair Prices, Fair Markets and Fair Access:** Reduce concentration and assure fair competition, fair access to markets and programs, fair wages and income, a more diversified processing infrastructure, and access for all producers to the safety net programs they need to survive and thrive. Expand access to organic markets and processing infrastructure for small-scale producers.
- ▶ **Diversified, Regenerative, Local Food Systems:** Prioritize, uplift, and invest in traditional ecological knowledge, secure land tenure, and community-based organizations to support diversified regenerative agriculture at all scales and resilient local food economies that prioritize feeding local communities. Rebuild infrastructure to support regional/farmer led food systems to feed their communities and support farm workers to enter agriculture as producers and to build our next generation of farmers.
- ▶ **Nurture New, Diverse, and Small-Scale Farmers:** Halt farm loss, modernize farm credit with longer term loans and fairer credit terms, invest in building land tenure for the next diverse generation of producers, and develop a pathway to support farmworker who seek to farm. Support mentors who nurture and grow new farmers and help assure fair access to Farm Credit and Conservation Programs.
- ▶ **Reverse Historic Discrimination:** Invest in programs and technical assistance to securely connect to the land the historically marginalized and underserved producers with the traditional knowledge to care for it and implement policies that make systemic changes to eradicate historic discrimination, including continued investments in skilled technical assistance support by the community-based organizations trusted by producers.
- ▶ **Foster resilient rural economies, cooperatives, and infrastructure through new investments:** Our organizations have worked together on every Farm Bill since 1981 and have secured over 45 sections of policy in the last three decades. We are here to work with you to develop and secure passage of a fair Farm Bill in 2023 and discuss where we can insert our amendments into the reauthorized legislation.
- ▶ **Assure Nutrition Programs Are Funded to Assure Healthy Food for All:** Provide funding of SNAP and other critical food programs to fully meet nutrition needs, including expansion of the full SNAP program to Puerto Rico.

Together we can strengthen the 2023 Farm Bill to ensure prosperity for all farmers and ranchers, farm, and food workers and all who live in tribal, urban, and rural communities throughout the United States.