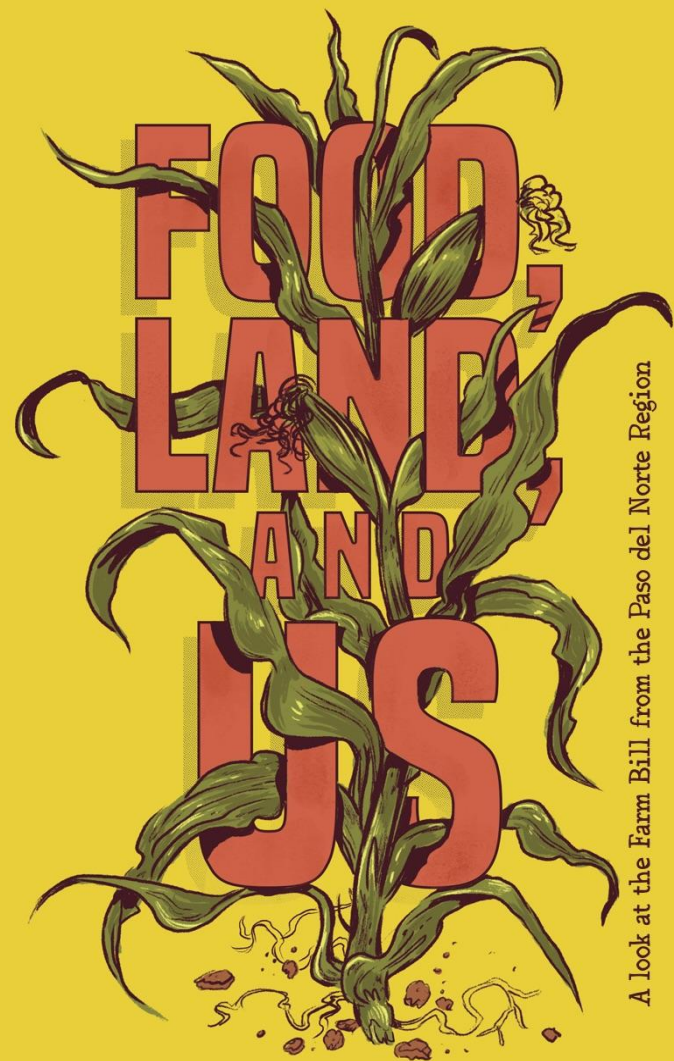
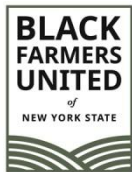


Elevating and Mobilizing Voices from across New York to Advocate for an Equitable 2023 Farm Bill

May 25, 2023



A look at the Farm Bill from the Paso del Norte Region



Farm Bill History

The Farm Bill is a package of legislation passed once every five years that has a tremendous impact on farming livelihoods, how and what food is grown.

Programs range from crop insurance to healthy food access for low-income families, from beginning farmer training to support for sustainable farming practices.

The current Farm Bill was enacted into law in December 2018 and expires in September 2023.



Farm Bill History

Agriculture in the US today is built on a legacy of stolen Indigenous land and stolen African labor.

Early systems and policies directly provided stolen resources to white farmers, while others explicitly prohibited all other groups from owning land.

The Farm Bill—historically and today—largely acts to uphold existing structural inequities.

As a result, farmers of color are underrepresented, experience greater land loss.

Thanks to the National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition (NSAC) for historical context.

*This slide is based on work by:
Candace Spencer, Kelsey Watson, Ariana Taylor-Stanley, Noah McDonald, Marla Karina Larrave, Qiana Mickie, Leah Penniman, Stephanie Morningstar, Nicole Sugerman*

What's in the Farm Bill?

The Nutrition Title (80%)

Provides nutrition assistance for low-income households through food programs like the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP; formerly known as food stamps) fruit and vegetable subsidies, and nutrition education.

Crop Insurance (8%)

Subsidizes farmers and protects them from fluctuations in crop yield and revenue through the permanently authorized federal crop insurance program which cover most major crops.

Conservation Programs (6%)

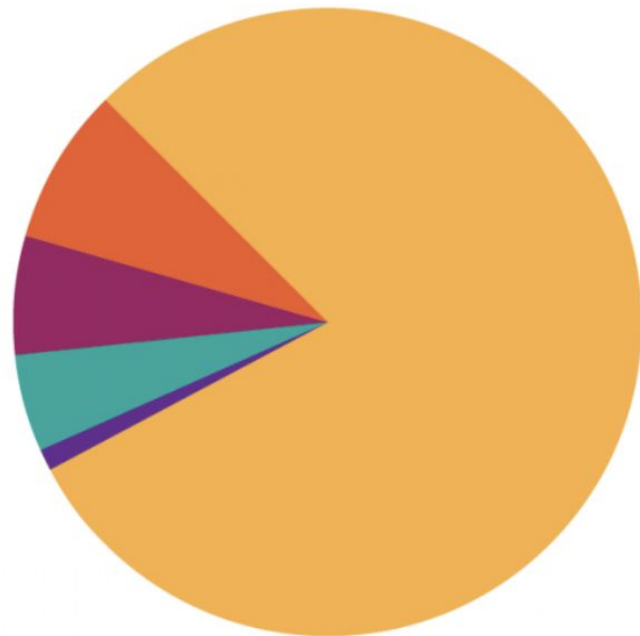
Encourage environmental stewardship of farmlands and improved management through land retirement and/or working lands programs.

Commodity Programs (5%)

Provides payments and loans triggered by low market prices for major commodities such as wheat, corn, soybeans, sugar and dairy as well as disaster assistance for livestock.

Other (1%)

Trade, Horticulture, Research, Energy, Rural Development, Forestry, Food Safety.

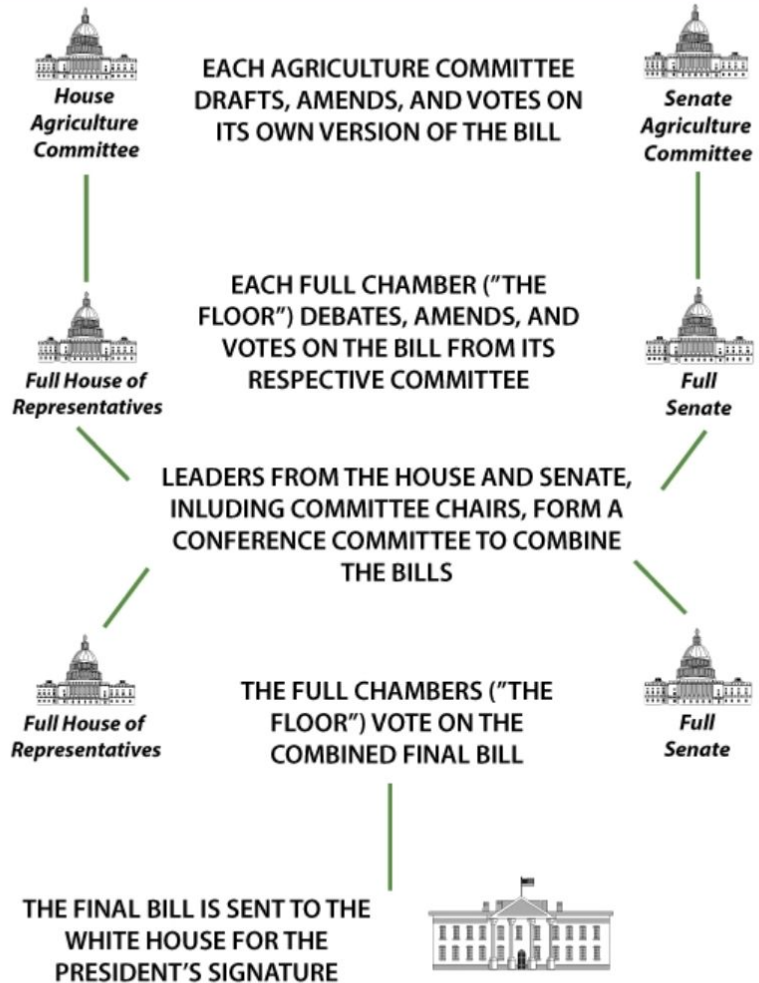




We are Here!



Pathway to the 2023 Farm Bill





A New York Farm Bill Campaign





PURPOSE

A collective effort to mobilize our various communities across NYS to advocate for an equitable Farm Bill by:

- Sharing and Building Knowledge
- Strengthening Advocacy Skills
- Empowering them to Take Action



 **equity advocates**



FOOD FOR THE SPIRIT





Campaign History

To engage New Yorkers in shaping the 2023 Farm Bill, we co-led a months-long series of conversations, listening sessions and surveys.

We prioritized outreach to and participation of Black, Indigenous, and people of color (BIPOC) farmers, producers, & practitioners in New York.

Over 300 New Yorkers shared how the 2023 Farm Bill can better support them in terms of land access, urban agriculture, climate change, food justice, nutrition, local and regional food systems, and more.

2023 FARM BILL

A NEW YORK STATE
POLICY PLATFORM

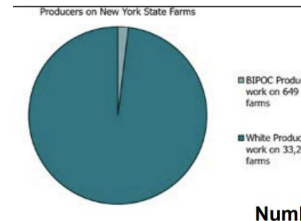


A collaboration between Equity
Advocates, Black Farmers United
NYS and Food for the Spirit .

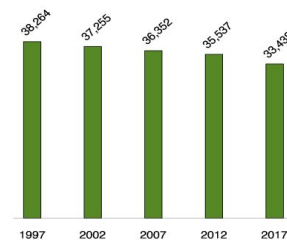


Impact for New York State

- **1 in 7 New Yorkers participate in SNAP**, receiving about \$4.8 billion in benefits.
- Only 0.24% of farmers in New York State are Black, **139 Black farmers out of 57,000**.
- **Black farmers make \$1** for every \$5 a white farmer makes in New York State.
- Black farms receive **60% fewer government subsidies and support**.



Number of Farms, 1997-2017





The Next Farm Bill Must Be a Racial Justice Bill

To ensure we actively promote food sovereignty and racial equity, **equity and justice must be at the center of every facet of the 2023 Farm Bill.**

- **BIPOC voices** need to be prioritized in Farm Bill program design and decision-making processes.
- USDA to conduct an **equity assessment** of Farm Bill programs and publish DEI data on awards.
- **Increase accessibility** and reduce barriers by reducing match requirements, providing TA.
- Significantly **increase investments in targeted outreach** to BIPOC farmers, producers, practitioners.



Increase Access to Food Assistance

The Farm Bill provides over 1.6 million low income New Yorkers with **funds to buy food**.

Farm Bill programs **purchase and distribute food that food pantries, soup kitchens, senior centers,** and other organizations provide directly to New Yorkers in need.

Programs funded by the Farm Bill **reduce the cost of healthy food & promote self-sufficiency** for low-income New Yorkers.

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)

Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP); Commodity Supplemental Food Program

Gus Schumacher Nutrition Incentive Program; Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program; Community Food Projects



Increase Access to Food Assistance

- **Expand access to SNAP** by removing eligibility barriers and use Low-Cost Food Plan for more realistic benefits.
- Provide flexibility, choice to ensure fresh, Kosher & Halal products are available in **emergency food system**.
- **Increase funding and public outreach** for farmers' market incentive programs, ensure equitable access.
- **Improve community food project grant** by doubling funding, reducing match, and simplifying application.



Invest in Community-led Food Infrastructure

Farm Bill programs support regional farmers by **increasing the number of direct-to-consumer markets** to buy fruits, vegetables and other healthy foods.

Programs funded by the Farm Bill **strengthen regional food supply chains and food economies** - food hubs, farmers markets, farm-to-institution projects, and marketing and consumer cooperatives.

*Farmers Market and Local Food
Promotion Program*

*Regional Food Systems
Partnership Program; Fresh
Produce Procurement
Partnership Program;
Community Food Projects*



Invest in Community-led Food Infrastructure

- Increase funding, reduce matching fund requirement to provide direct producer-to-consumer markets resources to orgs serving underserved areas.
- **Maintain the flexibility and innovation** RFSP enables across regions while reducing the match and extending grant time period.
- Direct USDA to **specifically authorize value chain coordination, technical assistance** as eligible expenses.
- Create a permanent, values-based **procurement partnership at USDA.**



Support Land Stewardship & Farmer Training

The Farm Bill **supports existing and emerging models of urban agriculture**, innovative production activities and local compost planning.

Programs funded by the Farm Bill support **outreach that help socially disadvantaged farmers and veteran farmers gain access to USDA** programs and services.

Farm Bill programs provide **training to the next generation of farmers and ranchers**, supports farm transition planning including connections to land.

The Farm Bill improves **local food sourcing and access to gardens and nutrition education at schools**.

Urban Agriculture & Innovative Production Competitive Grants Program; Community Compost & Food Waste Reduction Project Cooperative Agreement

Outreach and Assistance for Socially Disadvantaged and Veteran Farmers and Ranchers Program

Beginning Farmer & Rancher Development Program; 4 H Program and Youth Development

Farm to School Program



Support Land Stewardship & Farmer Training

- Increase investments in urban agriculture grants, increase accessibility with simple grant portal, technical assistance.
- Prioritize applications that include **community-based groups and BIPOC farmers**, producers and practitioners.
- Increase investments in the 2501 Program to address disparities in access to resources and support.
- **Funnel funding** to senior farmers to train beginning farmers and community led funding vehicles like Black Farmer Fund.
- **Authorize loans to** facilitate farmland transition between retiring and beginning farmers.
- Invest in **youth agriculture and education programs**.



Activating Our Communities



We have
the right to
speak up and
take action.



Q & A

THANK YOU!



Questions?

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Grasstops: Know Your Target

House & Senate Ag Committee Members & Leadership from NY



Kirsten Gillibrand
Senate



Nick Langworthy
House
Representative
(NY-23)



Marc Molinaro
House
Representative
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