

## Regenerative Agriculture and Justice Priorities for the 2023 Farm Bill

ASBN has convened the [Regenerative Agriculture and Justice Working Group](#), a cross-sector business and investor initiative working in cooperation with farmers and ranchers and other stakeholders from all aspects of the agricultural supply chain to develop priorities for the 2023 Farm Bill.<sup>1</sup> ASBN especially recognizes small and mid-scale farmers and ranchers as key stakeholders in building a vibrant, resilient and sustainable economy. Farmers, ranchers, and businesses all are crucial for healthy supply chains and their business models are reliant on supportive public policy in order to ensure markets remain equitable, accessible and profitable.

Businesses from across sectors, farmers, conservationists, and other stakeholders increasingly support regenerative agriculture, an approach to farming that prioritizes building soil health, minimizing inputs, and enhancing biodiversity through a combination of context and place-based practices. Regenerative agriculture and other similar approaches are vital for rebuilding the health of our natural systems, restoring clean water, repairing hydrological cycles to reduce flooding and drought, and allowing wildlife to flourish. Notably, soil under regenerative management can sequester a significant amount of CO<sub>2</sub>. Regenerating soil health will be pivotal in the fight against the climate crisis. Supporting regenerative agriculture in the Farm Bill will not only be good for the environment but will also benefit farmers, and build a more resilient economy and food system as a whole.

### Why Regenerative Agriculture

#### 1. *Regenerative agriculture benefits farmers.*

Regenerating and improving soil health [can increase crop yields and prevent loss to extreme weather events](#) like drought or flooding, while also reducing [input costs](#) such as nitrogen fertilizers. This comes at a critical time as synthetic fertilizer prices have more than [doubled since 2021](#) due to the conflict between Russia and Ukraine, [both major global producers](#), and the rising fuel prices. Transitioning towards regenerative agriculture can also improve farmer incomes by providing access to new revenue streams from businesses and consumers demanding transparency, quality, and responsible approaches to agriculture.

#### 2. *Regenerative agriculture is good for businesses and the U.S. economy.*

Companies are increasingly becoming interested in regenerative agriculture to meet [growing consumer demand](#) for agricultural goods that advance environmental, climate, and social welfare goals. However, domestic farmland under regenerative production is minimal, and companies often look abroad to fulfill demand. Companies are also diversifying their supply chains toward regenerative as a way to [increase their supply chain resilience](#) in the face of extreme weather events, disease, and other crises. While private capital investments in regenerative farming have proven positive long-term returns and market demand continues to exceed supply, the lack of government policy and programmatic support for the transition hinders its adoption to the detriment of U.S. farm families and rural communities.

<sup>1</sup> Please visit the following webpage to learn more about the working group:  
<https://www.asbnetwork.org/post/regenerative-agriculture-justice-working-group>

## 2023 Farm Bill Priorities

The following priorities were established through careful deliberation by the stakeholder experts of the [Regenerative Agriculture and Justice Working Group](#) as priorities for the 2023 Farm Bill. A central part of all our policy priorities is 1) equitable program access and 2) increased funding for discriminated-against people of color farmer groups and other underserved farmers.

### SUPPORT

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Current agricultural policy and market structures favor large-scale producers and there is a long history of discrimination and exclusion at the USDA. Public policy must reflect that small-scale and discriminated-against people of color farmers have been practicing and refining regenerative agriculture and traditional ecological knowledge at the margins of society for centuries, and that farmers who are more economically secure have a longer-term horizon for planning and land management.

#### Priorities

4. Investment in market development, processing, and infrastructure for regenerative, organic, and local and regional farmers
5. Development of USDA-approved meat processing capacity to provide access to markets for local and regional producers

#### Priorities

1. Land access and support for beginning farmers and ranchers, especially for small-scale farmers, discriminated against groups, and regenerative producers
2. Debt relief for underserved and discriminated against farmers
3. Farmworker support, including housing and nutritional support program eligibility for undocumented workers

### INVEST

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Access to markets is constrained for independent farmers and ranchers due to the lack of processing infrastructure, which is particularly acute in the meat and dairy markets. The centralization of processing capacity requires the transportation of crops and animals across long distances, increasing their carbon footprint. It also hinders the ability of local/regional regenerative producers to access markets.

### INCENTIVIZE

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Transitioning from conventional agriculture to a more regenerative system takes time, effort, and resources. Producers can improve yields and save money on inputs in the long run by adopting regenerative agriculture, but there can be a period of reduced yields during the transition. Both federal and industry incentives can help make the decision for farmers to take the regenerative journey easier.

#### Priorities

6. Incentives, training, outreach, credit/finance, and payments for regenerative practices, including organic and indigenous/traditional ecological practices
7. Federal crop insurance updates to reward the adoption of de-risking practices (like cover cropping, increased diversity, and reduced tillage), rather than penalizing them
8. Redirect USDA incentives away from polluting concentrated animal feeding operations and towards regenerative systems using managed grazing and reincorporation of livestock in cropping systems

# These statements and priorities for the 2023 Farm Bill have been endorsed by the following businesses and organizations:

## Agriculture, Farming, and Food Service

### California

- The California Native Garden Foundation
- Mongol Tribe Inc
- Iron Horse Vineyards
- Lotus Foods, Inc.
- Wild Acres Farm
- FEED Cooperative Inc.
- Hobo Wine Company
- Old World Winery
- O'Neill Vintners & Distillers
- Narrative Food
- Veronica Foods, Co
- Olipop
- Zero Foodprint

### Colorado

- Durango Compost Company

### Washington DC

- National Latino Farmers and Ranchers Trade Association
- National Family Farm Coalition

### Florida

- Earthbilt

### Georgia

- Association for Farmers Rights Defense, AFRD

### Hawaii

- Women Organizing for Change in Agriculture and Natural Resource Management (WOCAN)

### Pennsylvania

- ReSeed

### Michigan

- Chiwara Permaculture Research & Education L3C
- Wiltse Kitchen
- Cellar Door Preserves
- Gods' Natural Wonder

### Minnesota

- Thousand Hills Lifetime Grazed
- Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy

### New Jersey

- Comeback Farm Organic Produce

### New Mexico

- Covenant Pathways

### New York

- PureHempNY
- CrannMor Advisors
- Sweet Farm
- Global Mountain Action
- Whole World Botanicals

### North Carolina

- New Earth Sanctuary

### Ohio

- Schmidt Family Farms
- reEarth
- Westwood Creek Farm

### Texas

- Ejido Verde

### Virginia

- Savage Acres LLC

### Vermont

- North Star Transition
- Agrilab Technologies Inc.
- King Arthur Baking Company
- Salvation Farms, Inc.

### Washington

- Greater Intent
- MicraCulture LLC

## Manufacturing

### California

- Patagonia
- Zego LLC
- Eleek Incorporated
- Philosopher Foods

### New Hampshire

- MegaFood

#### **New Mexico**

- Avocado Green Brands

#### **New York**

- Victory Hemp Foods

#### **Ohio**

- Naturepedic Organic Mattresses

#### **Oregon**

- Banyan Botanicals

#### **Texas**

- Evolving Electric Motor Company

#### **Virginia**

- Rivanna Natural Designs, Inc.

#### **Vermont**

- Seventh Generation

#### **Wisconsin**

- Box Latch Products

## **Tourism, Restaurant, and Accomodation**

#### **California**

- Otherwild
- Great Patience Zen Stitchery
- HigherRing, Inc.
- Parable of the Sower Intentional Community Cooperative

#### **Colorado**

- Vista Caballo

#### **Washington DC**

- Alliance for Regional Cooperation

#### **Minnesota**

- CONTEMPL8 T-SHIRTS LLC

#### **New York**

- Symbiotic
- LDM Wines, Inc.

#### **Pennsylvania**

- Lake Harmony Inn

#### **Texas**

- High Hope Ranch
- 50/50 Crowdfunding

#### **Virginia**

- Coherence Collaborative

#### **Virgin Islands**

- Real Leaders

#### **Washington**

- Creative Creek, LLC

## **Retail Trade**

#### **California**

- HelioBioSys, Inc.
- Dhana Inc.

#### **Colorado**

- The WishGarden Project

#### **North Carolina**

- Ware, LLC

#### **New York**

- Yuti Co-op
- Down to Earth Farmers Markets
- Milotricot

## **Finance and Insurance**

#### **California**

- Mission Driven Finance
- Green Retirement, Inc.
- Sparkwork Consulting
- Terra Blue Wealth Management
- The Builders Fund
- Financial Alternatives

#### **Georgia**

- Chicory Wealth

#### **Hawaii**

- New Energy Partners Inc

#### **Illinois**

- Manaaki

#### **Massachusetts**

- Stakeholders Capital
- Greenvest

#### **North Carolina**

- The Farthest Pixel

#### **New Jersey**

- Bio-Gist Ventures, LLC

#### **New York**

- JSA Sustainable Wealth Management

#### **Oregon**

- Steward

#### **Virginia**

- Change Finance

## **Vermont**

- Clean Yield Asset Management

## **Advocacy and Education**

### **California**

- REV+ALL
- Kiss The Ground
- Land Core
- Green Business BASE CAMP
- Artists For Change
- Coming Clean
- Walk Your Talk Productions
- We All Rise

### **New York**

- Culture Shift Agency
- Perlman and Perlman
- Bailey's Cafe

### **New Jersey**

- Middletown for Clean Energy

### **Washington DC**

- Green America
- Earthjustice
- Natural Resources Defense Council
- Shifting Patterns Consulting

### **Massachusetts**

- Climate Foundation
- Soil4Climate

### **Michigan**

- Southeast Michigan Small Business Forum
- West Michigan Environmental Action Council

### **New York**

- Green Map System
- 1worker1vote
- Scenic Hudson

### **Ohio**

- Benjamin Visuals

### **Oregon**

- Advancing Collective Equity

### **Texas**

- OneSeventeen Media

### **Virginia**

- Health Care Without Harm

### **Wisconsin**

- Wisconsin Environmental Initiative

## **Healthcare and Social Assistance**

### **Maryland**

- Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments

### **New York**

- Laurie Allan & Associates LLC

### **South Carolina**

- Senior Express USA

### **Iowa**

- Sisters of St. Francis Dubuque

### **Virginia**

- Wolf & Associate

## **Management, Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services**

### **Alabama**

- Fox One Solutions

### **California**

- Collaborative for the Environment, Wellness and Opportunity (CEWO)
- Chosen Futures
- Roots of Change, a Program of the Public Health Institute
- Fruition Sustainability Solutions LLC
- Decarbon
- Open Lines Marketing
- Integrated Capital Investing
- Remarkable Ventures Corp.
- TraceTrust
- Environmental & Public Health Consulting
- Sky Pilot Software
- Elevate Impact
- Aequor

### **Colorado**

- Ever Better, PBC
- Summit Venture Management
- Dojo4, LCA

### **Washington DC**

- Eighty2degrees Design Studio

### **Illinois**

- Workforce & Organizational Research Center, Inc.
- NJH Sustainability Consulting

### **Massachusetts**

- Pure Strategies Inc.

### **Maine**

- Good Dirt Consulting

### **Maryland**

- ChangeMatters
- Cogito Regenerative
- RoundPeg Benefit LLC

### **Nevada**

- Transition Services, Inc.

### **North Carolina**

- When Everything Matters

### **North Dakota**

- A.K. A Coach and Company

### **New York**

- Collaborative Solutions
- Metis Consulting Group
- Hestia global
- Garnant Computer Services
- DOTSUB

### **Ohio**

- 17 Ways
- Ingage Partners

### **Oregon**

- Geek Girl Tech
- Evergreen Sustainability, LLC

### **Pennsylvania**

- Gryphon Solutions, LLC
- Sanderson Sustainable Design
- Sustainably Wise

### **Texas**

- Newpoint Gas, LLC

### **Utah**

- Healthy Environment Alliance of Utah

### **Virginia**

- RECONOMICS Institute
- Chantilly Mediation and Facilitation

### **Washington**

- Lauren Archer LLC

## **Real Estate, Rental, and Leasing**

### **California**

- Marin Sunshine Realty
- C. Wolfe Software Engineering

### **Louisiana**

- Manale Realty

### **Montana**

- GreenPath Properties

### **New York**

- Fred F. French Investing LLC
- Possible Planet

### **New Mexico**

- Peirce Piano Service

### **Pennsylvania**

- GreenWeaver Landscapes

## **Construction and Retail Trade**

### **California**

- James' Solar
- HelioBioSys, Inc.
- Dhana Inc.

### **Colorado**

- SunJuice Solar LLC
- The WishGarden Project

### **New Mexico**

- Comunicaciones Kokopele

### **North Carolina**

- Fireplace Editions
- Ware, LLC

### **New York**

- Yuti Co-op
- Down to Earth Farmers Markets
- Milotricot
- eco-bags products inc
- la vie après l'amour

### **Tennessee**

- NEWLY

### **Texas**

- Textile Exchange

### **Washington**

- Namu Baru Inc.

## **Business and Associations**

### **Arizona**

- Local First Arizona

### **California**

- Sagent

### **Colorado**

- Progressive Promotions

### **Illinois**

- Illinois Green Business Association

### **Massachusetts**

- Sustainable Business Network of Massachusetts

### **Michigan**

- Michigan Sustainable Business Forum

### **New Jersey**

- NJ Sustainable Business Council

### **New York**

- UrbisEco

### **North Carolina**

- Chatham Climate Advisory Committee

### **Ohio**

- American Independent Business Alliance

### **Washington**

- Seattle Good Business Network