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. 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 CO2. 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.

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1 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**

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.

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<th>Priorities</th>
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<tr>
<td>1. Land access and support for beginning farmers and ranchers, especially for small-scale farmers, discriminated against groups, and regenerative producers</td>
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<td>2. Debt relief for underserved and discriminated against farmers</td>
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<tr>
<td>3. Farmworker support, including housing and nutritional support program eligibility for undocumented workers</td>
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**INVEST**

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.

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

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.

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<td>6. Incentives, training, outreach, credit/finance, and payments for regenerative practices, including organic and indigenous/traditional ecological practices</td>
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<td>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</td>
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<tr>
<td>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</td>
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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 Accommodation

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