



YEAR IN REVIEW 2021

IN 2021, young farmers across the country continued to grow food for their communities despite major challenges, including pandemic disruptions, climate change impacts, racial inequities, and soaring land prices. It was an important moment to take stock and to ask our farmers what solutions and support they need as we head into our second decade as a coalition.

THE RESOUNDING ANSWER: BOLD CHANGE IN OUR AGRICULTURAL SYSTEM.

2021 was a year to imagine together a better future for agriculture and a pathway to achieve it. We launched a year-long, collaborative process that involved staff, farmers, and peer organizations in creating a new Strategic Plan for the next five years. We are emboldened by a new mission to shift power and resource our new generation of working farmers. We envision a just future where farming is free of racial violence, accessible to communities, oriented towards environmental well-being, and concerned with health over profit.

WE'RE PROUD OF WHAT WE'VE ACCOMPLISHED WITH YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT, AND EXCITED TO SHARE SOME HIGHLIGHTS FROM A TRANSFORMATIVE YEAR

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING YOUNG FARMERS

HIGHLIGHTS

OVER \$2 MILLION DIRECTED TO BIPOC FARMERS AND ORGANIZATIONS

650 FARMER ADVOCATES TRAINED

1755 FARMERS CONTACTED THEIR MEMBERS OF CONGRESS

15 IN-DISTRICT MEETINGS HELD WITH ELECTED OFFICIALS

51 CHAPTERS IN 32 STATES

\$30,000 IN COVID RELIEF

RAISED FOR FARMERS AND FARMWORKERS WHO ARE UNDOCUMENTED THROUGH THE FARMER SOLIDARITY FUND

10 NEW STAFF MEMBERS

FEDERAL POLICY ADVOCACY & STRUCTURAL CHANGE

In 2021, we introduced a new Congress to our first farmer-led, democratically-selected Federal Policy Platform. With racial equity as the baseline, we prioritized [five pillars](#): Land Access, Climate Action, USDA Access & Accountability, Immigration & Labor, and Student Debt Relief.

- ★ We engaged the Biden Administration before inauguration by [meeting](#) with the President's transition team to urge action on the interconnected issues of agricultural land, climate change, racial equity, and student loan debt. Even as we [congratulated](#) Secretary Vilsack on his appointment, we pledged to hold him accountable to his racial equity commitments.
- ★ We continue to stand up for farmworkers and immigrant farmers; joining more than [300 advocates](#) to endorse legislative proposals to recognize immigrant essential workers and [endorsing](#) the [Farm Workforce Modernization Act of 2021](#).
- ★ This spring, we successfully advocated in coalition for the [Emergency Relief for Farmers of Color Act](#). Both materially and symbolically powerful, the act provides for more than \$4 billion in debt relief for an estimated 16,000 BIPOC farmers and was included in the [American Rescue Act](#). Unfortunately, this essential relief was challenged in court and payments were halted by federal judges. We have since signed on with more than [250 peer organizations](#) to condemn the halt of this relief.
- ★ In our [comments](#) on climate to the USDA, we articulated the need for [climate action](#), including programs to support farmers of color and those practicing traditional, climate-smart agriculture. Our network engaged in over 1,500 actions in support of climate legislation in the [Build Back Better Act](#).
- ★ We launched our [One Million Acres for the Future Campaign](#). Our goal is to secure a historic \$2.5 billion for equitable land transition in the 2023 Farm Bill. In 2021 we formed a coalition of partners, introduced our campaign to the House and Senate Agriculture Committees, and started recruiting 100 farmer fellows to lead the campaign at the grassroots.
- ★ The critical relief we won for our farmers in 2020, the [Coronavirus Food Assistance Program \(CFAP2\)](#), was extended in 2021 and we continued our important work phone banking BIPOC farmers in our network to provide technical assistance and support. This year, we followed up with 891 farmers who had not yet applied to notify them of the extension and help them apply.

WE BELIEVE THAT IN ORDER TO BUILD A BRIGHTER FUTURE FOR YOUNG AND BIPOC FARMERS, WE MUST WORK ACROSS ISSUES.

1. LAND ACCESS
2. CLIMATE ACTION
3. USDA ACCESS & ACCOUNTABILITY
4. IMMIGRATION & LABOR
5. STUDENT DEBT RELIEF

ADVANCING LOCAL CHANGE THROUGH PARTNERSHIP AND SOLIDARITY

Our work to create a more just food system intersects with movements for immigrant rights, climate action, racial equity, and economic justice. Our policy work at the state level reflects this holistic vision for change, and is driven by our Federal Policy Pillars and our racial equity values.

- ★ We stood with the Alliance for New York Farmland to advocate for [The Soil Health and Climate Resiliency Act](#); hosting a lobby day, five farmer-legislator meetings, a farmer advocacy training, two state-wide policy trainings, and participating in a roundtable that included heads of the NY Senate and Assembly Agriculture Committee.
- ★ In addition to crafting a [2021 Colorado Policy Platform](#) with our farmer-led policy committee, we worked with Frontline Farming to pass the [Farmworkers' Bill of Rights](#).
- ★ We worked with partners including the New Mexico Food and Agriculture Policy Council to pass the [Healthy Soils Tax Control Program](#), one of the top priorities in our farmer-driven 2021 [New Mexico Policy Priorities](#).
- ★ We co-organized a lobby day with 35 partner organizations in support of the Driving Pennsylvania Forward Campaign to win access to drivers' licenses for undocumented people. In line with priorities outlined in our [2021 Pennsylvania Policy Platform](#), we facilitated nine meetings with farmers and their state representatives to talk about land access using the [Young Farmer Land Report](#).
- ★ We teamed up with the [California Farmer Justice Collaborative](#) to submit public comments on the [Farmer Equity Act](#) and joined organizations during the statewide [Immigrant Day of Action](#).

GRASSROOTS LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

We believe farmers are leaders and changemakers. Our fellowships shift power to young and BIPOC farmers and offer leadership development, advocacy, and organizing training in supportive peer cohorts. In 2021, we designed new fellowships to support farmers working at the nexus of racial equity and sustainable agriculture. 650 farmers joined us for these programs strengthening a national network of young, BIPOC farmer leaders ready to create change.

- ★ [Farmer Citizen Food Policy Certification](#) equipped 250 farmers—80% of whom identified as BIPOC—with the skills to mobilize their communities for policy change. This training program was provided in partnership with ASU's Swette Center for Sustainable Food Systems and featured esteemed speakers such as Senator Cory Booker (NJ) and Malik Yakini of the Detroit Black Community Food Security Network.
- ★ [California Young Farmer Political Leadership Fellowship](#) strengthens the advocacy skills of BIPOC farmers who've historically been excluded from California's decision-making bodies in a program designed to support them taking on positions of power in their communities.
- ★ [Food Safety Fellowship](#) convened 11 fellows to learn on-farm food safety and to become land able to support their peers in tackling food safety challenges.

We united our growing network at our 7th annual [National Leadership Convergence](#). Designed by a committee of BIPOC farmers, Convergence 2021 provided a collaborative space for farmers to develop racial equity projects and advocate for change with USDA Secretary Vilsack, White House Agriculture Advisors, and FSA Administrator Ducheneaux.

ONE MILLION ACRES FOR THE FUTURE CAMPAIGN

Access to land is the number one challenge facing the next generation of farmers in the United States, and this barrier is even greater for farmers of color. As a coalition of growers and land stewards, equitable land access and transition is our top priority. We launched our One Million Acres for the Future campaign, advocating for a \$2.5 billion investment in equitable land access and transition. This campaign will be our 2023 Farm Bill Advocacy, and to win we will build a coalition of partner organizations, engage D.C. policymakers, and resource farmer advocates through the Land Advocacy Fellowship.

“EQUITABLE LAND ACCESS AND TRANSITION IS OUR TOP PRIORITY”

TOGETHER WE CAN SHIFT POWER AND CHANGE POLICY TO CREATE A MORE JUST FUTURE FOR FARMERS.

The next farm bill will be debated in 2022, and we believe this is our last, best opportunity to secure structural change for our farmers.

With 40% of the nation's farmland on the verge of changing hands, the upcoming farm bill represents a critical opportunity to ensure equitable land—and by extension, power—transfer to the next generation of young and BIPOC farmers. Without significant policy intervention, this land may leave agriculture forever.

WE COULDN'T DO THIS WORK WITHOUT YOUR GENEROUS CONTRIBUTIONS TO OUR COALITION.

Your continued support is essential as we build our most ambitious campaign to date for the next Farm Bill. To learn more about our campaigns and to renew your commitment to Young Farmers, visit:

[YOUNGFARMERS.ORG/DONATE.](https://youngfarmers.org/donate)

