

NATIONAL YOUNG  
FARMERS COALITION

20  
22

# YEAR IN REVIEW





**With your support** 2022 was a year of tremendous growth for the National Young Farmers Coalition. After charting our path forward with our ambitious 2021-2026 Strategic Plan, we made bold moves to double the size of our team, launch our largest ever farmer-led advocacy campaign, and harness the voices and priorities of 10,000 young farmers through our National Survey report. We have been working hard to build power for our farmer leaders and to change federal policy to be more of service to the next generation—and this work is paying off. The last decade of grassroots advocacy and our growing influence in D.C. has prepared us to win historic policy change in the 2023 Farm Bill.

**Our Strategic Plan** paints a clear vision for the future of agriculture, a future where farming is free of racial violence, accessible to communities, oriented towards environmental well-being, and concerned with health over profit. Now is our moment to secure momentous wins in the 2023 Farm Bill that will make this vision reality. Our work in 2022 laid the groundwork for this transformative moment, and we could not have made this much progress without your support.

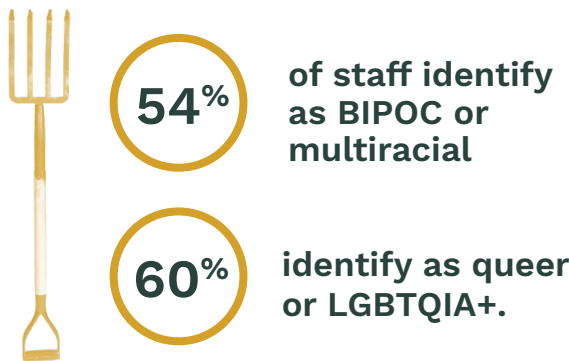
This year the National Young Farmers Coalition:

- Received **\$235,878** in direct funds through our fiscally sponsored chapter programs for regional projects nationwide
- Launched a new **\$1/year community membership program** designed for young and BIPOC farmers and advocates with limited financial means who want to add their voices to thousands of others calling for a brighter future for agriculture
- Built an inclusive network of **91 service providers through Cultivemos** dedicated to advancing the mental, emotional, social, and financial well-being of agricultural producers, workers, and their families in the Northeast;
  - // **32** new resources related to farmer mental health developed
  - 500** participants reached through
  - // **24** training opportunities
- Executed successful grant programs that delivered over **\$250,000** in direct support to young farmers. This includes flexible grants of **\$5,000** to 50 young farmers and grants of **\$500-5,000** to eight BIPOC Land Fellows to support any additional wellness and land access needs



- Grew our staff to **46 employees in 20 states**, dramatically increasing our capacity ahead of the 2023 Farm Bill

According to our 2022 staff survey:



AT A GLANCE 2022

**89** in-district meetings held with elected officials, addressing land access and climate change

**45** chapters in **31** states engaged in advocacy initiatives

**\$300 million** in USDA funding made available to community-based land access projects, created as a result of our advocacy

**100** majority-BIPOC Land Fellows engaged in policy advocacy

**13** op-eds written by farmers published in local and national press

**70%** of fellows located in key agricultural districts

**\$1/yr** community membership launched

**37** additional farmer leaders participated in other fellowships including our NM Water Fellowship, Food Safety Fellowship, Power in Land, Agriculture, Climate and Equity (PLACE) Fellowship, and the California Political Leadership Fellowship

The 2022 National Young Farmers Survey reached over **10,000 farmers and ranchers—with close to 25% of respondents identifying as BIPOC.** In September, we released the 2022 National Young Farmers Survey Report and Young Farmer Agenda, which landed farmer stories on the homepage of NPR and featured in the New York Times.

**83% of young farmers named that “one of their farm’s primary purposes for existing is engaging in conservation or regeneration.”**

// 2022 National Young Farmer Survey



## This year the National Young Farmers Coalition:

- Launched the **National Land Advocacy Fellowship**, designed to build the skills of a BIPOC-majority cohort of **100 farmer leaders** from across the country
- Held **89 in-district meetings** between **Land Fellows** and key Members of Congress and received high-profile press coverage. Staff also met with high-ranking USDA and White House officials about our policy platform
- Hosted **55 fellows and their families for three regional, in-person Convergences**. These collaborative spaces were for farmers to develop racial equity projects and advocate for change, and culminated in a virtual interactive keynote with Deepa Iyer from Building Movement Project on December 13, 2022.
- Elevated the **voices of Fellows in California, Colorado, Iowa, Oklahoma, and Pennsylvania** who shared their experiences via opinion pieces, podcasts, and radio
- Represented our **2023 Farm Bill priorities** during the first farm bill field hearing in Lansing, Michigan. This was one of thirteen hearings across nine states where farmers in our network represented our policy priorities.
- Featured in **183 local and national press pieces**,
  - **46%** of which featured equity issues or BIPOC farmers.
- Completed the **New Mexico Water Fellowship** and launched the **2022 Colorado Water Fellowship**, engaging 20 farmer fellows
  - **10 fellows ran for water boards and completed creative advocacy projects**
  - **20 farmers were identified as potential spokespeople for the water campaign**
  - **15 farmers have engaged in a digital advocacy action**



## This year the National Young Farmers Coalition:

### ONE MILLION ACRES FOR THE FUTURE

- Launched our most ambitious advocacy campaign, the **One Million Acres for the Future campaign**, which seeks to win a historic investment in equitable land transition for young farmers and farmers of color through the 2023 Farm Bill
- Organized alongside **Farmworker Justice and our partners** to advance several policies and initiatives, including Temporary Protected Status (TPS), Farm WorkForce Modernization Act, and the USDA Farm Labor and Farmworker Working Group, and provided feedback to the USDA regarding the upcoming Federal H-2A Farm Labor Pilot
- Published our **Young Farmer Agenda and land policy platform** in English and Spanish
- Published **Young Farmer Climate Stories**, where frontline farmers share their experiences with dangerous farming conditions, changes in weather patterns, and lack of access to water
- Collaborated with the Federation of Southern Cooperatives, Rural Coalition, and the National Family Farm Coalition to advocate for the **Inflation Reduction Act**. This bill will invest:
  - **\$3.1 billion** in support for Distressed Borrowers through Farm Service Agency (FSA) loans
  - **\$40 billion** for climate-smart agriculture direct or guaranteed Farm Service Agency (FSA) loans



“The reason why this farm bill is so important, and why access to land is so important, is because **when you have land you have power**. **Without land, we can’t feed each other**. The 2023 Farm Bill is a critical opportunity to invest in the farmers who grow food for our communities.”

// Brielle Wright, Land Advocacy Fellow, North Carolina



## This year the National Young Farmers Coalition:

Supported our **Operations & Impact Director, Michelle A.T. Hughes'** appointment to the newly formed USDA Equity Commission Agriculture Subcommittee, where she is serving alongside several revolutionary agricultural leaders and the Deputy Secretary. Michelle's recommendations around land access, climate change, and agency change that includes many of our organization's policy asks were approved by the overarching Equity Commission at the fall meeting in Pine Bluff, AR.

Entered a **five-year cooperative agreement with the USDA** to provide technical assistance to young BIPOC farmers in accessing FSA programs, to **address long-standing systemic discrimination and establish more equitable access to the USDA** for farmers most marginalized in the food system

On August 24, 2022, the USDA announced the **Increasing Land, Capital, and Market Access Program**, a historic **\$300 million funding opportunity for projects that increase land access for underserved farmers**. This program is directly aligned with our policy platform and is a result of our advocacy efforts. We organized a rapid response effort to ensure that BIPOC-led communities could take advantage of this historic opportunity. We:

Submitted a letter on behalf of **99 partners asking USDA to allow more time for equitable access to program funding**. We received an extension of three weeks, a game-changer for organizations applying



Hired a team of grantwriters and supported **19 applications, most of which were submitted by BIPOC-led organizations**, ultimately requesting over **\$130 million** and involving **91 partner organizations** across **30 states**

## 2023 Farm Bill

Our most ambitious farm bill campaign to date gained momentum in 2022. In 2023, we will host our largest Young Farmer Fly-In, connecting young farmer leaders with their Members of Congress in D.C. to advocate for the Young Farmer Agenda. After the bill is signed into law, the next phase is ensuring that implementation is equitable and accessible to young farmers and farmers of color.

This is a pivotal moment, and we're ready to dig in, amplify the voices of young farmers and ranchers, and win the policy solutions we need for a brighter and more just future for agriculture.



## SUPPORT A BRIGHTER FUTURE FOR YOUNG FARMERS

To learn more about our campaigns and to renew your commitment to Young Farmers, visit: **[YOUNGFARMERS.ORG/DONATE](https://YOUNGFARMERS.ORG/DONATE)**