



NATIONAL YOUNG FARMERS COALITION

23 YEAR IN REVIEW





INTRO

For the National Young Farmers Coalition (Young Farmers), success means turning bold legislative change into material benefit for young and BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, People of Color) farmers. **We achieve this future by organizing farmers and advocating for policy solutions that meaningfully support them.** At the grassroots level, we cultivate farmer leadership via advocacy fellowships, chapter network, and community organizing. In Washington, D.C., we back them up with strategic, creative policy campaigns that are reflective of and accountable to farmers' needs and lived experiences.



2023 BY THE NUMBERS

138

FARMER LEADERS IN FELLOWSHIPS NATIONWIDE

135

FARMERS JOINED THE LARGEST YOUNG FARMER FLY-IN TO WASHINGTON, D.C., AND HELD 159 MEETINGS WITH POLICYMAKERS

60

IN-DISTRICT MEETINGS BETWEEN FARMERS AND POLICYMAKERS



3

MARKER BILLS INTRODUCED IN THE HOUSE AND/OR SENATE

75

YOUNG FARMER GRANTS OF \$5,000 AWARDED

5

PODCAST EPISODES RELEASED THIS YEAR

1,000+

PRESS HITS RAISING AWARENESS OF OUR COALITION, OUR ISSUES, AND OUR FARM BILL CAMPAIGN

30

FARMER-LED CHAPTERS IN 24 STATES

2000+

DUES-PAYING MEMBERS



FARM BILL AND ADVOCACY

BOLD STRUCTURAL CHANGE IS CRITICAL TO ENSURE A JUST FUTURE FOR AGRICULTURE AND SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS.

The next Farm Bill is being written right now. In 2023, we mobilized leaders across the country to ensure our demands for the future of farming are heard before the bill is finalized. Since launching our **One Million Acres for the Future campaign** in November 2021, the Young Farmers team has been working hard to build power for our farmer leaders and to change federal policy—and we have started to see this work bear fruit!

We led land and conservation-related marker bills that have garnered endorsements from hundreds of partnering organizations and growing bipartisan support in Congress as more representatives co-sponsor the bills:

★ **Increasing Land Access, Security, and Opportunities Act (LASO)** will invest in community-led equitable land access opportunities

★ **Small Farm Conservation Act** will improve access to USDA conservation programs for water and climate resilience

★ **Farmer to Farmer Education Act** will support community and farmer-led education for other farmers on climate adaptation and mitigation

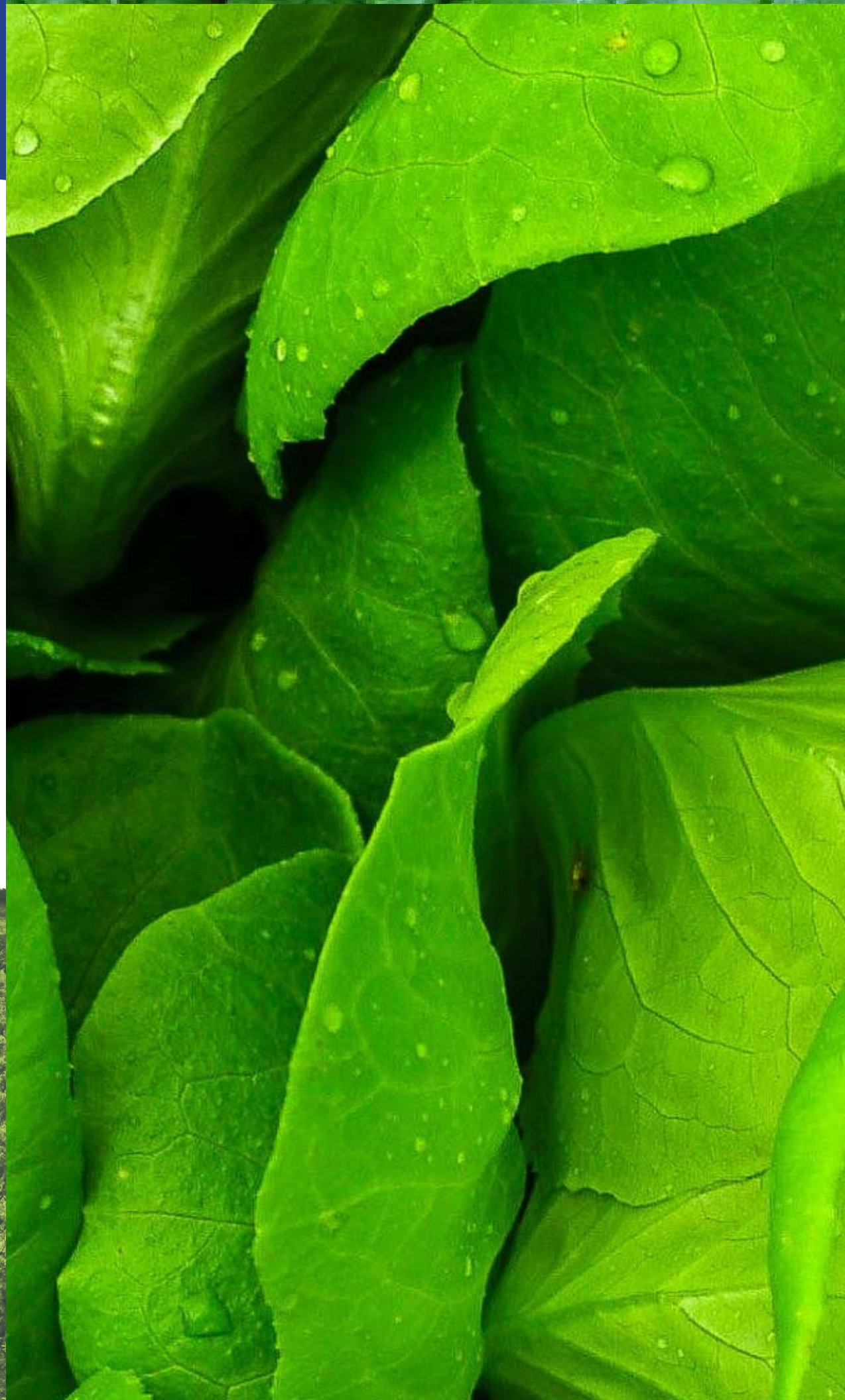
INCREASING ACCESS TO CAPITAL AND LAND

As a result of our advocacy, the USDA launched the Increasing Land, Capital, and Market Access (LCM) program, which **distributed a landscape-changing \$300 million in funding** to support community-led, BIPOC-centered, cooperative land and capital projects.

WE SUPPORTED 19 BIPOC-LED ORGANIZATIONS IN APPLYING FOR THIS FUNDING, AND IN JUNE WE LEARNED 13 OF THEM WERE AWARDED FUNDING!

We are engaged in ongoing efforts to support funded organizations and to communicate with USDA about the implementation of this program.

Through the Young Farmer Grant Program, in partnership with Chipotle, we awarded 75 grants of \$5,000. The newest grant recipients have bold visions for building long-term resiliency through regenerative operations.





GRASSROOTS ORGANIZING AND BASE BUILDING

We hosted three **regional winter convergence events**, bringing together over 40 young farmer leaders to Atlanta, GA, San Luis Obispo, CA, and Washington, D.C. Fellows shared their experiences, learned key organizing and advocacy skills, and made their voices heard in a critical Farm Bill year. As part of the Convergence program, local farmers, community organizations, and Congressional offices joined press conferences, farm visits, and informal roundtable events to learn more about the LASO marker bill.

We launched a new **digital organizing platform** via Quorum to streamline text, emails, and other actions, building political power. 985 advocates have taken action in one of our campaigns in 2023.

We cultivated our **chapter network** of 30 farmer-led chapters in 24 states. We are proud to now resource 13 fiscally-sponsored chapters, who secure and manage funding for their own local projects and organizing.

Years ago, after losing a beloved community member, our Washington Chapter spearheaded a regional-level mental health campaign. Young Farmers then leveraged a mirroring national-level campaign. Together, these efforts resulted in funding and implementing the **Farm and Ranch Stress Assistance Network (FRSAN)** in the 2018 Farm Bill, a well-utilized program serving thousands of farmers.

In the Northeast, Young Farmers utilizes FRSAN funding to operate **Cultivemos**, a robust network of service providers and farmers united by a commitment to improve wellness and mental health for farmers and farmworkers.



In 2023, the Cultivemos network grew to 160 members representing 90 organizations in the Northeast

100 NATIONAL LAND ADVOCACY FELLOWS MET WITH REPRESENTATIVES

IN THEIR HOME DISTRICTS AND ON CAPITOL HILL, PROVIDED TESTIMONY, AND PUBLISHED OP-EDS CALLING FOR EQUITABLE LAND ACCESS

18 COLORADO AND NEW MEXICO WATER FELLOWS

BECAME LEADERS IN WATER EQUITY AND ACCESS

6 SOUTHERN FARMERS JOINED THE RED CLAY FELLOWSHIP,

WORKING AT THE NEXUS OF SUSTAINABILITY AND RACIAL EQUITY

10 POWER IN LAND, AGRICULTURE, CLIMATE, AND EQUITY (PLACE) FELLOWS

DEVELOPED THEIR KNOWLEDGE AT THE INTERSECTION OF CORPORATE POWER, SUSTAINABILITY, AND FARMLAND ACCESS

4 YOUNG FARMERS FOOD SAFETY FELLOWS

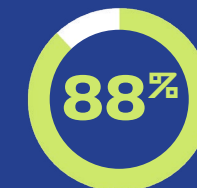
EXPLORED FOOD SAFETY FROM A COMMUNITY CARE APPROACH IN CAGUAS, PUERTO RICO, IN DECEMBER 2023, HOSTED BY EL DEPARTAMENTO DE LA COMIDA AND IN PARTNERSHIP WITH LA SEMILLA FOOD CENTER

(PHOTO: ABOVE)

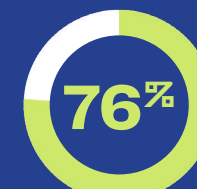
75% OF COLORADO FELLOWS

SUCCESSFULLY SECURED A SEAT ON A WATER CONSERVATION BOARD OR RELATED ROLE

YOUNG FARMER GRANT RECIPIENTS



identify as BIPOC



identify as women, nonbinary, or trans farmers





LOOKING AHEAD

In 2024, we remain firm in our advocacy for a farm bill that takes meaningful action in this pivotal moment—investing in the individuals who will steward agricultural land and grow food for our communities into the future. Our coalition will sustain pressure on Congress from mobilized farmer leaders, to ensure they will benefit directly from the outcomes of this critical five-year legislation.

TOGETHER & WITH YOUR SUPPORT, WE WILL :

- * Launch the Root and Bloom Fellowship, a new intensive advocacy and power-building educational opportunity for farmers across the country
- * Launch our new Field School, a traveling one-day advocacy, policy, and coalition organizing workshop to base build with new advocates in key agricultural districts
- * Build our national grassroots base through farmer wellness and mental health events, chapter engagement, and an online advocacy course
- * Amplify farmer storytelling through communications and activate new advocates through strategic digital organizing



Supporters like you help us to equitably resource the next generation of working farmers through the upcoming farm bill and beyond. Help us sustain this vital work by continuing to invest in the future of farming and donating to the National Young Farmers Coalition.

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