



Farmers for Climate Action Week Toolkit September 17- 23, 2023

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About this Toolkit

The next Farm Bill needs to explicitly provide farmers with the resources, assistance, and incentives they need to lead the way in addressing the climate crisis.

This toolkit contains background information and sample materials to help you mobilize your base in support of the climate action in the farm bill as part of Farmers for Climate Action Week. For the most impact, customize your messaging with stories and pictures of farmers in your region who have stories to tell about climate-friendly farming.

This toolkit is intended for public consumption and may be shared freely with other organizers. If you are an organizer, we recommend that rather than sharing the toolkit directly with farmers in your network, you use the sample materials to model and encourage engagement with the Action Week on social media. Keep in touch to let us know how you use it and any other information you need!

About the Action Week

Farmers for Climate Action Week is September 17-23, culminating with in-person events at the Farm Aid Music Festival on Saturday, September 23 in Noblesville, Indiana. The goal of the week of action is to harness the energy of the Farmers for Climate Action: Rally for Resilience and continue to demand action on climate change in the farm bill, this time via social media.

Join us in sharing posts about the importance of climate friendly agriculture via social media. NSAC will be sharing posts each day in alignment with the three major themes of the Rally for Resilience. NSAC members, partners, and farmers can get involved by sharing these posts or creating your own using one of the templates in this guide.

You can engage by...

- Sharing about the week of action on your social media platforms with farmers and advocates in your network
- Sharing stories of farmers taking action for climate
- Calling on your legislators via social media (or directly) to act on climate in this farm bill - find their social media handles at <https://bit.ly/mocsocials>
- Using our hashtag: #FarmersForClimateAction

We will be promoting a series of updated asks on each day of the Action Week (see the sample messaging section) and are continuing to center the following priorities from the rally:

Farmer-Led Climate Solutions

Value and support the expertise of farmers whose long-developed, holistic, sustainable systems address climate concerns and many related environmental challenges

- Build new permanent, climate-focused, baseline funding for conservation programs
- Maximize opportunities and program compatibility for organic and transitioning producers

- Increase availability and quality of technical assistance for climate-friendly farming
- Provide long-term support for perennial practices via the conservation programs
- Expand research programs that identify and train farmers in best practices

Racial Justice

Prioritize the expertise and needs of Indigenous and traditional communities in the Farm Bill

- Dedicate more resources to farmers who have been underserved by Farm Bill programs
- Reduce barriers to program participation
- Gather and use data in ways that minimize burdens and maximize transparency
- Expand research on unique climate change impacts on vulnerable and underserved populations
- Codify the purpose, functions, and funding for the USDA Equity Commission
- Recognize Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK)-based conservation
- Allow lands held in common and by Tribal entities to access conservation programs

Communities not Corporations

Ensure that land, products, and benefits of agriculture will remain under or return to the control of those with knowledge and skill in managing and developing sustainable systems, to benefit them and their communities

- Create new funding and leadership structures to promote equitable land access
- Invest in local and regional food systems, including regional-scale infrastructure
- Strengthen and fund enforcement of antitrust and fair competition laws
- Expand availability of publicly held, regionally tailored seeds and breeds
- Ensure any efforts to build markets for carbon do not further concentrate wealth and power or add to burdens shouldered by communities

Organizational Partners

This week of action was collectively organized by the following NSAC members and partner organizations:

- Chicago Food Policy Action Council
- Farm Aid
- Michael Fields Agricultural Institute
- Northeast Sustainable Agriculture Working Group
- Pasa Sustainable Agriculture
- Waterkeepers Chesapeake Fair Farms Initiative
- American Sustainable Business Network
- CLEO Institute
- Haki Farmers Collective
- Serenity Homestead LLC & NONI Nonprofit
- Ujamaa Cooperative Farming Alliance
- The Wilderness Society

Getting Started

Find Your Members of Congress

Every person living in the fifty states has two senators and one representative. To find yours, visit govtrack.us and type in your address. Note that GovTrack also provides the official websites, office phone numbers, and helpful information on each member of Congress. Pay close attention to the committees your representatives are on, especially if it is the agriculture committee! You can find your Members of Congress' social media handles [here](#).

Write Your Own Climate Story

Sharing personal stories about how federal policies and programs impact you or your community is one of the best ways to connect with a member of Congress and demonstrate the importance of taking action. However, it can be difficult to think of how you are directly impacted by policy. Pull together your climate story to use in your social media posts. Consider using some of the following questions from our Farmer Climate Story Toolkit to get you started:

- What does sustainable and/or regenerative agriculture mean to you?
- When you think about climate change and agriculture, both on your farm and more broadly, what are some initial key concerns that come to mind? How have these concerns shaped the way you farm?
- Have you participated in any federally funded farm or food programs (such as the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP), the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) or others)?
 - Have you participated in more than one? Which program(s)?
- If so, how did you find out about the program(s)? What was your experience like - both applying for and using the program?
 - Are there other federal programs your farm has been a part of? If so, what has your experience with those programs looked like?
 - Did you face any barriers to accessing federal funding programs or technical assistance? Is there anything you would like to see change about the programs you have participated in?
 - How has [insert program(s)] benefited you and your farm?
 - Why do you think these kinds of programs are important even if they aren't perfect?
 - Can you recall a specific story that demonstrates how that program has benefited you?
- What resources do you still need or would like to see available for farmers as they implement conservation practices and work to address climate change? Dream big.

Graphics

Find more graphics to download and share [here](#)

Key links

Landing page: bit.ly/fcaw

Congressional social media handles: bit.ly/mocsocals

Sample Messaging

Please feel free to download and post these yourself with the hashtag #FarmersForClimateAction or reshare NSAC's posts, which you can find at our accounts:

Twitter: @sustainableag

Facebook: @sustainableag

Instagram: @nsac_sustainableag

*Note: the messages in **maroon text** are priorities of NSAC's but not collectively endorsed by all the organizations involved in planning the Farmers for Climate Action Week.*

Please include the hashtag #FarmersForClimateAction on all of your posts!

Sunday, 9/17: BIPOC & Farmer-Led Climate Solutions

Facebook + LinkedIn

- This spring, hundreds of farmers marched in the streets of Washington, D.C. demanding action on climate change in the farm bill. That farm bill is being written right now. This week, we are taking action to remind Congress to prioritize real, farmer-led, racially-just, and community-centered solutions to the climate crisis in the farm bill they are writing. Join in! Share your story, use the hashtag #FarmersForClimateAction, and tag your Member of Congress! Take action now at bit.ly/fcaw #FarmerLedClimateSolutions, #RacialJustice, and #CommunitiesNotCorporations
- Farmers know what they need. Voluntary, incentive-based programs allow farmers to choose their conservation priorities. Tell Congress to let them choose their own conservation priorities by keeping the \$20 billion in support for farm conservation programs from the Inflation Reduction Act in Title II of the Farm Bill. Check out this blog post for more information: <https://sustainableagriculture.net/blog/on-iras-one-year-anniversary-the-top-5-things-to-know-about-the-historic-investment-in-climate-friendly-agriculture/> #FarmersForClimateAction #FarmerLedClimateSolutions
- Traditional Ecological Knowledge from Indigenous communities and #1994LandGrantInstitutions can lead us into a sustainable future. Tell Congress to make



TEK used with Free, Prior, and Informed Consent, and climate priorities of the Organic Agriculture Research and Extension Initiative (OREI) by including the Organic Science and Research Act in the 2023 Farm Bill. Take action now at bit.ly/fcaw. More information: <https://ofrf.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/OSRI-1-pager.pdf>

#FarmersForClimateAction #BIPOCFarmers #FarmerLedClimateSolutions

- Don't look "pasture" opportunity to support sustainable agriculture practices! Indigenous communities have shared grazing practices that can mimic natural systems. Ask that two-thirds of the funding for livestock practices in the Farm Bill go to supporting high-quality grazing solutions. Take action now at bit.ly/fcaw #FarmersForClimateAction #FarmerLedClimateSolutions #BIPOCFarmers
- Flooding, droughts, heat waves, and hurricanes: climate change has made extreme weather events more frequent and more severe. That puts small, sustainable farmers at risk of losing everything. They're doing their part to steward the land. Let's "insure" that they can keep doing it. Tell Congress to support the Whole Farm Revenue Program here: <https://secure.everyaction.com/vVubnPACLE2NHx5KjLyreg2> . #FarmersForClimateAction #FarmerLedClimateSolutions

Instagram

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they can keep doing it. Tell Congress to support the Whole Farm Revenue Program.
#FarmersForClimateAction #FarmerLedClimateSolutions

Twitter

- Join us in calling on Congress to support #FarmerLedClimateSolutions, #RacialJustice, and #CommunitiesNotCorporations in the next Farm Bill. Retweet us or share your own post using #FarmersForClimateAction Week from Sunday to Saturday!
- Farmers know what they need. Tell Congress to let them choose their own conservation priorities & keep \$20 billion in support for farm conservation programs in Title II of the Farm Bill #FarmersForClimateAction #FarmerLedClimateSolutions
- Traditional Ecological Knowledge from Indigenous leaders can help build a sustainable future. Tell Congress prioritize TEK and climate in the Organic Agriculture Research and Extension Initiative #FarmersForClimateAction #BIPOCFarmers
- Indigenous communities have shared grazing practices that can mimic natural systems. Ask that two-thirds of the funding for livestock practices in the Farm Bill go to supporting high-quality grazing #FarmersForClimateAction #BIPOCFarmers
- Small and sustainable farmers are doing their part to steward the land. Let's "insure" that they can keep doing it. Tell Congress to support the Whole Farm Revenue Program.
#FarmersForClimateAction #FarmerLedClimateSolutions

Monday, 9/18: Racial Justice in the Farm Bill

Facebook + LinkedIn

- For Day 2 of #FarmersForClimateAction week, we're calling on Congress to center #RacialJustice in the next Farm Bill. The next generation of Black and Brown farmers need land. Tell Congress to include the Increasing Land Access, Security, and Opportunities Act in the 2023 Farm Bill. Take action now at bit.ly/fcaw
#FarmersForClimateAction #RacialJusticeClimateJustice
- Urban farmers want to create #FoodSovereignty and #ClimateJustice in your city, especially in BIPOC communities. Yet, research shows that they are underserved by the USDA. The next Farm Bill must include the Supporting Urban and Innovative Farming Act. #FarmersForClimateAction #RacialJusticeClimateJustice. The next Farm Bill must include the Supporting Urban and Innovative Farming Act. Read more at: <https://sustainableagriculture.net/blog/release-nsac-praises-introduction-of-the-supporting-urban-innovative-farming-act-of-2023/> #FarmersForClimateAction #RacialJusticeClimateJustice
- Farming for the climate is a skill. New and BIPOC farmers need the Farming Opportunities Training and Outreach Grant Program to learn sustainable practices. Tell Congress that it needs to be in the next Farm Bill. Take action now at bit.ly/fcaw
#FarmersForClimateAction #RacialJusticeClimateJustice
- Black, Brown, and small-scale farmers deserve access to capital without unnecessary risks. Without strong oversight of the Farm Service Agency and borrower protections, they are at risk of being taken advantage of. Tell Congress to include the Fair Credit for

Farmers Act in the 2023 Farm Bill here: <https://actnow.io/IQ7CqbW>
#FarmersForClimateAction

Instagram

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- Black, Brown, and small-scale farmers deserve access to capital without unnecessary risks. Without strong oversight of the Farm Service Agency and borrower protections, they are at risk of being taken advantage of. Tell Congress to include the Fair Credit for Farmers Act in the 2023 Farm Bill. #FarmersForClimateAction

Twitter

- It's Day 2 of #FarmersForClimateAction Week. The next generation of Black and Brown farmers need land. Tell Congress to include the Increasing Land Access, Security, and Opportunities Act in the 2023 Farm Bill #RacialJusticeClimateJustice
- BIPOC Urban farmers want to create #FoodSovereignty in your city. Yet, they are underserved by the USDA. The next Farm Bill must include the Supporting Urban and Innovative Farming Act. #FarmersForClimateAction #RacialJusticeClimateJustice
- Farming for the climate is a skill. New and BIPOC farmers need the Farming Opportunities Training and Outreach Grant Program to learn it. Tell Congress to include it in the farm bill #FarmersForClimateAction #RacialJusticeClimateJustice
- BIPOC and small farmers are at risk of being taken advantage of by the Farm Service Agency. Protect their access to essential capital. Tell Congress to include the Fair Credit for Farmers Act in the 2023 Farm Bill. #FarmersForClimateAction

Tuesday, 9/19: Communities not Corporations

Facebook + LinkedIn

- For Day 3 of #FarmersForClimateAction week, let's keep local food simple. Farmers markets, food hubs, and co-ops need straightforward grants to help connect you to the farmers in your community. Tell Congress to put the Local Farms and Food Act into the 2023 Farm Bill. Share your story on what makes your local food businesses and farmers

unique, use the hashtag #FarmersForClimateAction, and tag your Member of Congress! Take action now at bit.ly/fcaw and read more at:

https://sustainableagriculture.net/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/Local-Farms-and-Food-Act_Outline.pdf #FarmersForClimateAction #CommunitiesNotCorporations

- Don't let big businesses "hog" your tax dollars- help local businesses bring home the bacon! There are 600 small-scale meat processors around the country, but our government only bought food from seven of them last year. Instead, they kept paying billions to the massive meat corporations. Tell Congress to Include the Strengthening Local Meat Economies Act in the next Farm Bill! Take action now at bit.ly/fcaw #FarmersForClimateAction #CommunitiesNotCorporations
- You can't farm over Zoom. Right now, millions of dollars in farmer assistance payments are being sent to the relatives of farmers and fake "farm managers" who may have never seen a farm themselves. Close the loophole and protect those funds for the farmers who need them. Tell Congress to include the Farm Program Integrity Act in the next Farm Bill. Read more here: https://www.grassley.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/farm_program_integrity_act_one_pager.pdf #FarmersForClimateAction #CommunitiesNotCorporations

Instagram

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Twitter

- #FarmersForClimateAction Week Day 3: Simple grants help farmers markets connect you to the farmers in your community. Tell your members of Congress to put the Local Farms and Food Act in the Farm Bill. #CommunitiesNotCorporations
- Our government could invest into the 600+ small meat packers. Instead, just four companies take the lion's share of your tax dollars. Tell Congress to put the Strengthening Local Meat Economies Act in the farm bill! #FarmersForClimateAction

- You can't farm over Zoom. So, why would you get paid to? Close the loophole and protect farm assistance funds for real farmers. Tell Congress to include the Farm Program Integrity Act in the next Farm Bill. #FarmersForClimateAction

Wednesday, 9/20: BIPOC & Farmer-Led Climate Solutions

Facebook + LinkedIn

- The next Farm Bill needs #FarmerLedClimateSolutions. Today is Day 4 of #FarmersForClimateAction week. Voluntary, incentive-based programs allow farmers to choose their conservation priorities. Tell Congress to keep the \$20 billion in support for farm conservation programs from the Inflation Reduction Act in Title II of the Farm Bill. Share your story on what you're doing to steward sustainably, use the hashtag #FarmersForClimateAction, and tag your Member of Congress! Take action now at bit.ly/fcaw and check out this blog for more information: <https://sustainableagriculture.net/blog/on-iras-one-year-anniversary-the-top-5-things-to-know-about-the-historic-investment-in-climate-friendly-agriculture/> #FarmersForClimateAction #FarmerLedClimateSolutions #BIPOCFarmers
- Traditional Ecological Knowledge from Indigenous communities and #1994LandGrantInstitutions can lead us into a sustainable future. Tell Congress to make TEK used with Free, Prior, and Informed Consent, and climate priorities of the Organic Agriculture Research and Extension Initiative (OREI) by including the Organic Science and Research Act in the 2023 Farm Bill. Take action now at bit.ly/fcaw More information: <https://ofrr.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/OSRI-1-pager.pdf> #FarmersForClimateAction #BIPOCFarmers #FarmerLedClimateSolutions
- Sustainable farmers need a better budget. The payments from the Conservation Stewardship Program are often too small to support their work. Small, BIPOC, and underserved farmers need these funds now. Tell Congress to increase the minimum payments from CSP in the next Farm Bill. Take action now at bit.ly/fcaw #FarmersForClimateAction #FarmerLedClimateSolutions

Instagram

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Twitter

- #FarmersforClimateAction Week Day 4: Tell Congress to let farmers choose their own conservation priorities & keep \$20 billion in support for farm conservation programs in Title II of the Farm Bill #FarmerLedClimateSolutions
- Traditional Ecological Knowledge from Indigenous leaders can help build a sustainable future. Tell Congress prioritize TEK and climate in the Organic Agriculture Research and Extension Initiative #FarmersForClimateAction #BIPOCfarmers
- Sustainable BIPOC farmers need a better budget. Tell Congress to increase the minimum payments from Conservation Stewardship Program in the next Farm Bill. #FarmersForClimateAction #FarmerLedClimateSolutions

Thursday, 9/21: Racial Justice in the Farm Bill

Facebook + LinkedIn

- Today is Day 5 of #FarmersForClimateAction week! Congress must center #RacialJustice in the next Farm Bill. The next generation of Black and Brown farmers need land. Tag your members of Congress and tell them to include the Increasing Land Access, Security, and Opportunities Act in the 2023 Farm Bill. Share your story on what you're doing to support BIPOC farmers, use the hashtag #FarmersForClimateAction and take action now at bit.ly/fcaw
- Urban farmers want to create #FoodSovereignty and #ClimateJustice in your city. Many of them were created by and for Black, Indigenous, and People of Color. Yet, research shows they are underserved by the USDA. The next Farm Bill must include the Supporting Urban and Innovative Farming Act. Take action now at bit.ly/fcaw Read more at: <https://sustainableagriculture.net/blog/release-nsac-praises-introduction-of-the-supporting-urban-innovative-farming-act-of-2023/> #FarmersForClimateAction #RacialJusticeClimateJustice
- Indigenous people know how to steward their land. But, the Natural Resources Conservation Services is not allowing them to help set regional conservation priorities. Tell Congress to include Tribes on the list of stakeholders who choose NRCS' Priority Resource Concerns. Take action now at bit.ly/fcaw #FarmersForClimateAction #RacialJusticeClimateJustice

Instagram

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Friday, 9/22: Communities not Corporations

Facebook + LinkedIn

- Today is Day 6 of #FarmersForClimateAction week. Don't let big businesses "hog" your tax dollars- help local businesses bring home the bacon! There are 600 small-scale meat processors around the country, but our government only bought food from seven of them last year. Instead, they kept paying billions to the massive meat corporations. Tell Congress to Include the Strengthening Local Meat Economies Act in the next Farm Bill! Share your story on what you're doing to support sustainable businesses, use the hashtag #FarmersForClimateAction, and tag your Member of Congress! Take action now at bit.ly/fcaw
- Let's keep local food simple. Farmers markets, food hubs, and co-ops need straightforward grants to help connect you to the farmers in your community. Tell Congress to put the Local Farms and Food Act into the 2023 Farm Bill. Take action now at bit.ly/fcaw . Read more here: https://sustainableagriculture.net/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/Local-Farms-and-Food-Act_Outline.pdf #FarmersForClimateAction #CommunitiesNotCorporations
- Small businesses want to make sure their food products are safe to eat. But, the cost of inspections is built to keep them out of the meat and poultry industry. That means more money for big businesses and less for your community. Tell Congress to share the cost

of food safety and inspections in the next Farm Bill. Take action now at bit.ly/fcaw
#FarmersForClimateAction #CommunitiesNotCorporations

Instagram

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#FarmersForClimateAction #CommunitiesNotCorporations
- Small businesses want to make sure their food products are safe to eat. But, the cost of inspections is built to keep them out of the meat and poultry industry. That means more money for big businesses and less for your community. Tell Congress to share the cost of food safety and inspections in the next Farm Bill. #FarmersForClimateAction
#CommunitiesNotCorporations

Twitter

- #FarmersForClimateAction Week Day 6: Our government could invest into the 600+ small meat packers, but just four companies get most of your tax dollars. Tell Congress to put the Strengthening Local Meat Economies Act in the Farm Bill!
- Farmers markets, food hubs, and co-ops need simple grants to help connect you to the farmers in your community. Tell Congress to put the Local Farms and Food Act into the 2023 Farm Bill. #FarmersForClimateAction #CommunitiesNotCorporations
- The cost of inspections is built to keep small businesses out of the meat industry. Help bring home the bacon for your neighbors. Tell Congress to share the cost of food safety in the next Farm Bill. #FarmersForClimateAction

Saturday, 9/23: Farm Aid Festival

Facebook/ LinkedIn:

Tonight, thousands will gather in Noblesville, Indiana to listen to fantastic music and support sustainable agriculture at the @FarmAid Music Festival. Even if you didn't manage to grab a ticket, you can still join the festivities by telling Congress to support racial justice, farmer-led climate solutions, and communities, not corporations. You can also tune into the show at farmaid.org.

Thank you to everyone who has participated in the Farmers for Climate Action Week so far. Today, let's keep the energy going! Scroll back or check out #FarmersForClimateAction to learn how to get involved.

Today, let's make sure to stay connected. Learn how to stay involved with Farm Bill actions by signing up for action alerts at <https://sustainableagriculture.net/subscribe/>

#FarmersForClimateAction

Instagram:

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Today, let's make sure to stay connected. Learn how to stay involved with Farm Bill actions by signing up for action alerts at the link in our bio.

#FarmersForClimateAction

Twitter:

Thank you to everyone who has participated in the Farmers for Climate Action Week so far. Today, let's keep the energy going! Scroll back or check out #FarmersForClimateAction to learn how to get involved.

Hashtags

- #FarmersForClimateAction
- #RacialJusticeClimateJustice
- #FarmerLedClimateSolutions
- #CommunitiesNotCorporations
- #BIPOCfarmers
- #Farmers4Climate
- #FarmBill
- #FarmBill2023
- #NetZeroAgriculture
- #SoilHealth
- #OrganicAgriculture

Newsletter

Hi _____,

You are a powerful agent for change. Your stories about how climate change is impacting how you get or grow food are vital pieces of information. They can provide the evidence that members of Congress need to understand what they can do to build laws that support sustainable agriculture.

That's why this week, we're asking you to tell them!

It's Farmers for Climate Action Week- a time for us to harness the energy of the Farmers for Climate Action: Rally for Resilience and continue to demand action on climate change in the farm bill, this time via social media, calls, and emails.

The next Farm Bill needs to explicitly provide farmers with the resources, assistance, and incentives they need to lead the way in addressing the climate crisis. The best way to take action right now is to call your legislators.

To find the contact information for your members of Congress, type in your information at govtrack.us

Here's a quick script of what you can say:

Hi, I'm _____, one of your constituents from Oregon. I'm calling to ask my legislator to take action on climate change for farmers.

Farmers in Oregon know what is best for their land. Many of them are experts on holistic, sustainable systems that directly address climate concerns. Others need access to more funding to develop those skills.

For example, [Insert your story on how natural disasters, extreme weather, or climate change has impacted farmers or the food system in your community].

The 2023 Farm Bill must support farmer-led climate solutions. Will [Say Representative or Senator + their Last name] commit to supporting the inclusion of the \$20 billion in support for farm conservation programs from the Inflation Reduction Act in Title II conservation programs in the Farm Bill?

Thank you,

Goodbye.

No time to call? Visit our [Farmers for Climate Action Week landing page](#) for email templates centered around the Rally for Resilience's three key priorities: Farmer-Led Climate Solutions, Racial Justice, and Communities, not Corporations.

Check out this blog post for more information on how this investment in agriculture supports conservation.

Want to know more about how to get involved? Check out the National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition's social media or search #FarmersForClimateAction on all platforms to see the posts that others have made so far.

You can find us on:

Twitter: @sustainableag

Facebook: @sustainableag

Instagram: @nsac_sustainableag

Thanks for your hard work,

Email Templates

Farmer-Led Climate Solutions Email Templates

Dear Representative/Senator (Your Member of Congress)

Hello, I am (your name), and I work with (organization/ farm). I am one of your constituents in (district or state). (Make small talk! Build rapport, especially if you don't know the office you're reaching out to that well).

I am writing today to share the importance of supporting the expertise of farmers whose long-developed, holistic, sustainable systems address climate concerns and many related environmental challenges.

More specifically, the 2023 Farm Bill must support farm conservation.

The voluntary, incentive-based programs in Title II of the farm bill allow farmers to choose the conservation priorities. For example, the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) focuses on farm practices that have great benefits for the farm and the ecosystem. But small farmers often find that the payments are too small to sustain their work.

(Share how it's important/ your story)

Will you commit to support the inclusion of the \$20 billion in support for farm conservation programs from the Inflation Reduction Act and increased minimum payments from CSP in the 2023 Farm Bill?

Best,

Your Name

Your Organization

Dear Representative/Senator (Your Member of Congress)

Hello, I am (your name), and I work with (organization/ farm). I am one of your constituents in (district or state). (Make small talk! Build rapport, especially if you don't know the office you're reaching out to that well).

I am writing today to share the importance of supporting the expertise of farmers whose long-developed, holistic, sustainable systems address climate concerns and many related environmental challenges.

More specifically, the 2023 Farm Bill must support using Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) from 1994 Land Grant Institutions

The Organic Agriculture Research and Extension Initiative (OREI) provides critical understanding of the effectiveness of organic systems. But it needs a greater focus on climate and on traditional ecological knowledge (TEK). Section 4 of the Organic Science and Research Investment Act would help make continued research into TEK possible with leadership from tribal universities.

(Share how it's important/ your story)

Will you commit to support the use of TEK with free, prior, and informed consent and climate as priorities of OREI in the 2023 Farm Bill?

Best,

Your Name

Your Organization

Racial Justice Email Templates

Dear Representative/Senator (Your Member of Congress)

Hello, I am (your name), and I work with (organization/ farm). I am one of your constituents in (district or state). (Make small talk! Build rapport, especially if you don't know the office you're reaching out to that well).

I am writing today to share the importance of prioritizing the needs and expertise of Black, Indigenous, and people of color in all efforts towards sustainable agriculture. More specifically, the 2023 Farm Bill must support land access.

Beginning and underserved farmers lack access to farmland. Without land ownership, farmers must navigate unstable leases, struggle to gain access to capital, and face unnecessary barriers to accessing markets. The Increasing Land Access, Security, and Opportunities Act addresses the intersections of each of these issues.

(Share how it's important/ your story)

Will you commit to supporting the Increasing Land Access, Security, and Opportunities Act in the 2023 Farm Bill?

Best,

Your Name

Your Organization

Dear Representative/Senator (Your Member of Congress)

Hello, I am (your name), and I work with (organization/ farm). I am one of your constituents in (district or state). (Make small talk! Build rapport, especially if you don't know the office you're reaching out to that well).

I am writing today to share the importance of prioritizing the needs and expertise of Black, Indigenous, and people of color in all efforts towards sustainable agriculture. More specifically, the 2023 Farm Bill must support urban farmers.

Urban farming is a key approach to addressing food sovereignty and climate justice. Yet, many urban farmers are people of color, and urban farmers receive much less service from the US Department of Agriculture. The Supporting Urban and Innovative Farming Act will support collaboration among USDA departments, state, Tribal, and local agencies to bring technical assistance that meets the needs of small farmers. It will also provide micro-grants to supplement education and training to make impactful investments in the cutting edge of sustainable agriculture.

(Share how it's important/ your story)

Will you commit to supporting the Supporting Urban and Innovative Farming Act in the 2023 Farm Bill?

Best,

Your Name

Your Organization

Communities not Corporations Email Template

Dear Representative/Senator (Your Member of Congress)

Hello, I am (your name), and I work with (organization/ farm). I am one of your constituents in (district or state). (Make small talk! Build rapport, especially if you don't know the office you're reaching out to that well).

I am writing today to share the importance of ensuring that land, products, and benefits of agriculture will remain under or return to the control of those with knowledge and skill in managing and developing sustainable systems, to benefit them and their communities. More specifically, the 2023 Farm Bill must support local farms and food aggregators.

Farmers markets, food hubs, and co-ops need straightforward grants to help connect consumers to the farmers in their communities. The Local Farms and Food Act will amend the existing Local Agriculture Market Program to offer turnkey grants for farmers markets and food hubs to promote projects, do market research, and purchase equipment.

(Share how it's important/ your story)

Will you commit to support the Local Farms and Food Act in the 2023 Farm Bill?

Best,

Your Name

Your Organization

Dear Representative/Senator (Your Member of Congress)

Hello, I am (your name), and I work with (organization/ farm). I am one of your constituents in (district or state). (Make small talk! Build rapport, especially if you don't know the office you're reaching out to that well).

I am writing today to share the importance of ensuring that land, products, and benefits of agriculture will remain under or return to the control of those with knowledge and skill in managing and developing sustainable systems, to benefit them and their communities. More specifically, the 2023 Farm Bill must support local farms and food aggregators.

Over 80% of the meatpacking business in the US is owned by 4 multinational meatpacking companies. The current system creates harmful bottlenecks in processing times for livestock producers that disrupt their business operations. The Strengthening Local Meat Economies Act will redirect our government's meat procurement towards local processors and help to develop digital tools that connect producers, local processors, and institutional and government buyers.

(Share how it's important/ your story)

Will you commit to support the inclusion of the Strengthening Local Meat Economies Act in the 2023 Farm Bill?

Best,

Your Name

Your Organization

Supplemental Information

One Pagers with More Information on Marker Bills

Farmer-Led Climate Solutions

- Whole Farm Revenue Protection [section-by-section](#)
- Organic Science and Research Investment Act: [one-pager](#)

Racial Justice

- Increasing Land Access, Security, and Opportunities Act, [one-pager](#)
- Supporting Urban and Innovative Farming Act, [press release](#)
- Fair Credit for Farmers [one-pager](#), [RAFI email generator](#)
- Farming Opportunities Training and Outreach (renewal): [blog](#)

Communities, Not Corporations

- Local Farms and Food Act, [section-by-section](#)
- Strengthening Local Meat Economies Act- [section-by-section](#)
- Strengthening Local Processing Act- [press release](#), [summary](#)
- Farm Program Integrity Act [one-pager](#)

Talking points for items without marker bills

- **Focus the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) livestock set-aside on grazing:**
 - Legislation currently requires that 50% of EQIP spending go to livestock practices. EQIP spending on livestock predominantly supports Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs), with [four top-spending EQIP practices primarily supporting CAFOs](#).
 - CAFOs support a system of high greenhouse gas emissions. The fertilizers and pesticides that are used on the crops fed to livestock require substantial greenhouse gasses to make. Nitrogen-based fertilizers used on row crops emit agriculture’s most harmful greenhouse gas—nitrous oxide. And the cattle themselves emit substantial methane, another harmful greenhouse gas.
 - CAFOs also adversely affect the lives of the fence-line communities that abut them, of whom a substantial proportion are people of color, making CAFOs an important environmental justice issue.
 - High-quality grazing practices that rely on management intensive rotational grazing are not only a substantial improvement for people who live near to livestock operations. Research has also demonstrated that their lifecycle emissions can be lower than those of CAFOs when the carbon sequestration of pastures is taken into account.
 - Sustainable livestock practices draw on the knowledge of indigenous communities and often mimic natural systems.
 - The Ask: commit two-thirds of the EQIP livestock set-aside in the Farm Bill to high-quality grazing practices.
- **Raise the minimum payments for the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP):**
 - Many small- and midscale farmers employ high quality conservation practices that reduce soil erosion, improve water quality, and mitigate greenhouse gas emissions.
 - The payment structure of CSP rewards chosen farming practices on a per acre basis. This can disincentivize smaller-scale growers from participating in the program because their acres do not add up to a sufficient payment to support the adoption of new practices.
 - However, an overall payment minimum helps smaller-scale farmers sometimes to make use of the program. Right now, though, the payment level is too low, in part due to recent inflation.
 - The [Agriculture Resilience Act](#) brings the minimum payment up to \$2000, making it possible for small- and midscale growers more effectively to benefit from the program. This minimum should be incorporated into the Farm Bill.
- **Congress should add Tribes to the list of stakeholders who make determinations about Priority Resource Concerns (PRCs).** From *Gaining Ground*, the Native Farm Bill Coalition’s Farm Bill platform:

““Priority Resource Concerns” are currently defined by the Farm Bill as “a natural resource concern or problem, as determined by the Secretary, that— “(A) is identified at the national, State, or local level as a priority for a particular area of a State; and “(B) represents a significant concern in a State or region.”

“By amending this definition to include Tribes, Indian Country’s natural resource needs would no longer be wholly left out of this determination. This would facilitate more Tribally driven concerns to be addressed through NRCS funding, such as environmental disaster mitigation and Climate Smart investments for conservation improvements to infrastructure. Priority resource concerns like irrigation modernization and water access opportunities for agricultural production could also receive priority funding and consideration via this change in the law. This is particularly timely for many Tribes in the West, who are experiencing significant evaporation loss from open channel irrigation.”

- **Congress should make TEK used with Free, Prior, and Informed Consent, and climate priorities of the Organic Agriculture Research and Extension Initiative (OREI)**
 - This priority is a part of the Organic Science and Research Investment (OSRI) Act. [One-pager](#), [toolkit](#) both from the Organic Farming Research Foundation
 - From the Toolkit: the propositions in Section 4 of the OSRI amend the Organic Research and Extension act would “Identify and facilitate the study of Traditional Ecological Knowledge with required free, prior, and informed consent from tribal nations that possess that knowledge, and projects being lead by Tribal Universities.”
- **Protecting the Conservation Investments in the Inflation Reduction Act**
 - Last year, Congress provided a long overdue infusion of funding for popular working lands conservation programs. This historic investment will mean USDA can begin to meet the huge farmer demand for voluntary conservation, and that sustainable farmers across the country will have a real shot at accessing programs like CSP and EQIP to help them implement conservation practices.
 - This investment also greatly strengthened USDA’s ability to support farmers choosing to mitigate their contribution to climate change through voluntary adoption of practices in their operation. This is an unequivocal win for farmers and the planet, as many conservation practices that mitigate greenhouse gasses also help address water quality and wildlife habitat concerns, and can even lead to greater per acre profitability on farms.
 - Congress needs to protect and preserve both the infusion of funding for working lands conservation programs as well as USDA’s ability to address climate change on farms in this Farm Bill. The single most important victory for conservation farming possible in this Farm Bill is for Congress to make both increased funding and a climate focus a permanent part of working lands conservation programs.