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MINORiTYAgVOCATE™



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**DECEMBER
NEWSLETTER**

**VOL 1
ISSUE 9**



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FREEDMEN HEIRS FOUNDATION HIGHLIGHTS



HAPPY HOLIDAYS

FROM FREEDMEN HEIRS FOUNDATION

A MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Freedmen Friends and Allies,

As we wrap up another year, the Freedmen Heirs Foundation team and I want to take a moment to express our deepest gratitude for your support and dedication. This year has been one of remarkable growth and resilience, and your commitment to our mission and vision has been instrumental to our success.

During this holiday season, we hope you find joy and peace. May you spend cherished moments with loved ones, reflecting on the past year and looking forward to a prosperous and fulfilling new year.

Thank you once again and here's to a bountiful 2024!

Please enjoy this month's issue of the Minority AgVocate.

Seanicaa Edwards Herron



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FREEDMEN HEIRS FOUNDATION HIGHLIGHTS

DID YOU KNOW?

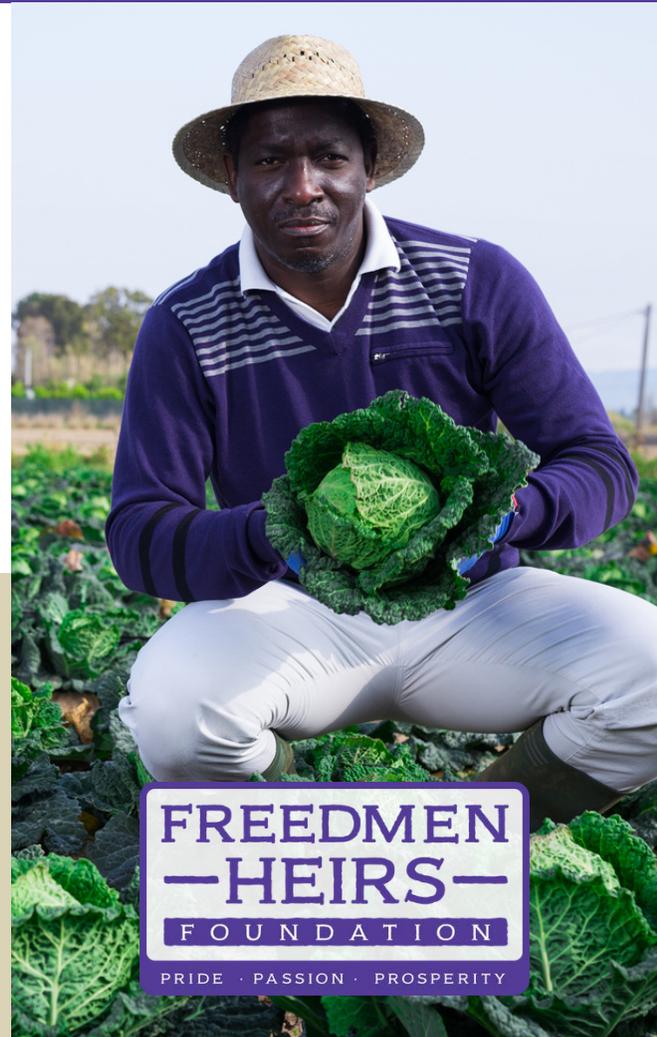
THE NUMBER OF BLACK FARMERS IN THE UNITED STATES HAS DECLINED ASTRONOMICALLY OVER THE LAST CENTURY.

By donating to our fundraising campaign, you are contributing to our mission of creating a more equitable agriculture sector.

LET'S CONTINUE TO CHANGE THE NARRATIVE TOGETHER

Your support enables us to:

- Develop impactful programming and initiatives
- Build organizational capacity and sustainability
- Promote networking opportunities and engagement



Click [here](#) to make a donation or contact us at give@freedmenheirs.org.

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2023: YEAR IN REVIEW



**AGRIPRENEUR
SPOTLIGHT SERIES**

2023: YEAR IN REVIEW

Read all 2023 newsletter issues on our [website](#).

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2023: YEAR IN REVIEW

APRIL



Ashley Smith
Founder of Black Soil KY

APRIL



Vince Peak
Founder of Share Farm

APRIL



PJ Haynie & Billy Bridgeforth
Founders of ARRM

MAY



Sedrick Rowe
Founder of Rowe Organic Farms

MAY



Connie Baptiste
Owner of Hunter Family Farm

MAY

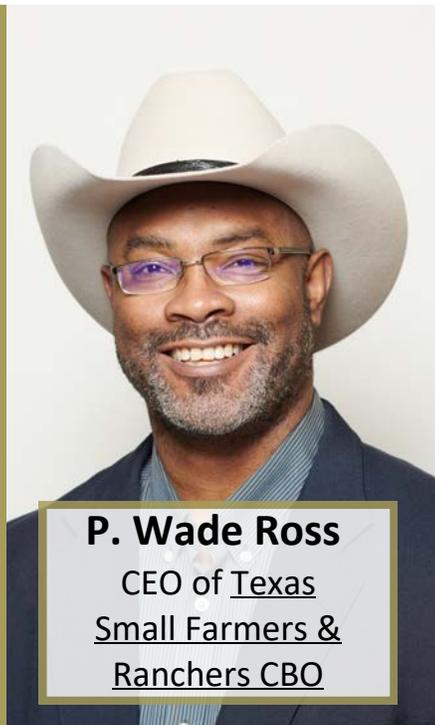


TJ Bradford
Founder of Bradford Ag Consulting

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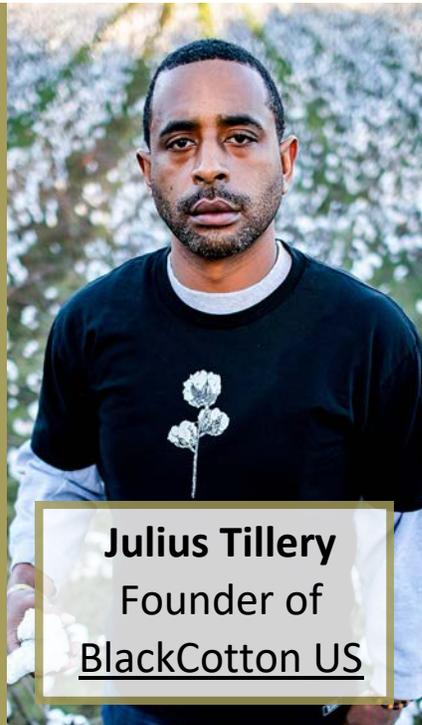
2023: YEAR IN REVIEW

JUNE



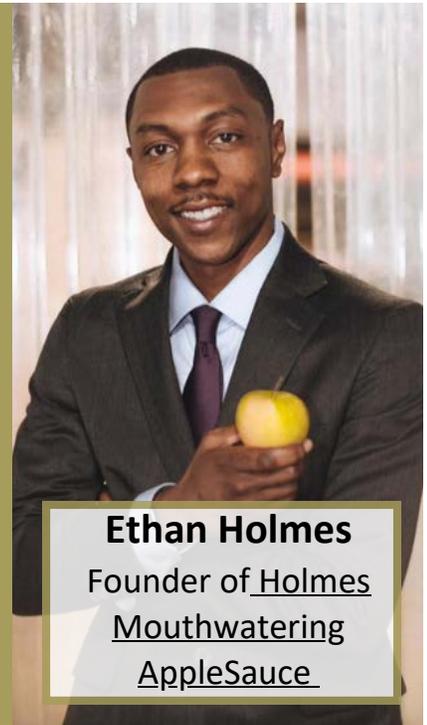
P. Wade Ross
CEO of Texas Small Farmers & Ranchers CBO

JUNE



Julius Tillery
Founder of BlackCotton US

JUNE



Ethan Holmes
Founder of Mouthwatering AppleSauce

JULY



Kaneisha Miller
Founder of EM Farms

JULY



Kimberly Ratcliff
Founder of Farm to Freezer Meat Co.

AUGUST



Tinia Pina
Founder of Re-Nuble

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2023: YEAR IN REVIEW

AUGUST



Demetrius Hunter
Founder of The Black Farmer's Hub

SEPTEMBER



Marvin Frink
Founder of Briarwood Cattle Farm

SEPTEMBER



Harold Singletary
Founder of Bright Ma Farms

OCTOBER



Dazmonique Carr
Founder of Deeply Rooted Produce

NOVEMBER



Ena Jones
Founder of Roots & Vine Produce and Café

NOVEMBER



Christa Barfield
Founder of Farmer Jawn

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UPCOMING EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

Invitation to the

Iowa Farmers of Color Conference

We are thrilled to extend a warm invitation to the Iowa Black Farmers Conference. This gathering serves as an invaluable opportunity for black farmers, of all enterprises, throughout Iowa, to connect, collaborate, and learn from each other's experiences. The day will include networking, a partnership forum detailing resources for Black farmers in the Midwest, and sessions from our esteemed guests Dr. Dewayne Goldmon and Darrell Tennie.



Dr. Dewayne Goldmon
Senior Advisor for Racial Equity
to the Secretary of Agriculture



Darrell Tennie
Chief Executive Officer
of the Tennie Group

Saturday, December 16
9 a.m.-4 p.m. followed by a happy hour
Jasper Winery

2400 George Flagg Pkwy, Des Moines, IA 50321
Closest Hotel: Hampton Inn Des Moines Airport-5001 Fleur Drive, Des Moines, IA

[Click here to register by December 11!](#)

We sincerely hope you can join us for this momentous event. Kindly RSVP to Todd Western at ToddWestern24@gmail.com by Dec. 11 to ensure your place at this pivotal gathering. If you have any dietary restrictions please let us know by reaching out to katie.aupperle@practicalfarmers.org.

Warm regards,
Todd Western and Shaffer Ridgeway

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UPCOMING EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES



National Black Growers Council

2023

Annual Meeting

Honoring our Past, Growing
our Future

December 12-15, 2023

Hilton Memphis
939 Ridge Lake Blvd
Memphis, TN 38120

Registration available now at:
<https://nationalblackgrowerscouncil.com/>



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UPCOMING EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES



Seeking Local Farmers

FreshPoint is a national foodservice distributor, and subsidiary of Sysco. We currently buy from over 300 local produce and dairy farmers, as well as artisans, and we're constantly looking to increase the number of small and mid-sized farmers that we support.

We're specifically looking to support more diversity in the supply chain by working with BIPOC farmers, women farmers, veteran farmers, and more.

Southeast warehouse locations: Atlanta, Charlotte, Nashville, Orlando, Raleigh, Tampa

Vendor requirements:

- GAP certified (for produce farmers)
- Any amount of insurance – we don't have a minimum requirement
- Ability to deliver in a refrigerated vehicle if we can't pick-up at the farm

We provide:

- Payments by direct deposit
- Annual crop planning
- Education on market price, industry pack size and grade
- Online marketing at local.freshpoint.com

Crops:

- We buy both common and specialty produce varieties
- We do not buy meat

If interested, contact Lauren Horning, Director of Local Sourcing and Sustainability, at lauren.horning@freshpoint.com or 919-368-2519.



Visit Local.FreshPoint.com to see current farm partners

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FARMER RESOURCES

Upcoming Deadlines

December is the last month to submit requests for Cash Flow-Based and Extraordinary Measures Assistance under the Inflation Reduction Act's Assistance for Distressed Borrowers. Section 22006 of the IRA provided \$3.1 billion for USDA to provide relief to distressed borrowers with certain Farm Service Agency (FSA) direct and guaranteed loans and to expedite assistance for those whose agricultural operations are at financial risk. Learn more about the programs [here](#). Requests for assistance must be received by **December 31, 2023** and can be submitted in person at a local Farm Service Agency office or online.

Inflation Reduction Act Assistance for Producers Who Experienced Discrimination in USDA Farm Loan Programs application deadline is approaching. Section 22007 of the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) provides \$2.2 billion in financial assistance for farmers, ranchers, and forest landowners who experienced discrimination in USDA's farm lending programs before January 1, 2021. The application process is open until **January 13, 2024**. Applications for this program are **free**. The program **does not require a lawyer**, and **program staff are available to provide free help**. Visit www.22007apply.gov to find out more information regarding this program and locate available assistance in your area.

Applications are still being accepted for the Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honey Bees, and Farm-raised Fish (ELAP). ELAP assistance is provided for losses not covered by other disaster assistance programs authorized by the 2014 Farm Bill and the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018, such as losses not covered by the Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP) and the Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP). More information regarding these programs can be found in the Farmer Resource section of this newsletter. The deadline to request all ELAP assistance for 2023 calendar year losses is **January 30, 2024**. For more information regarding the ELAP program, click [here](#).

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FARMER RESOURCES

USDA's Food Safety Certification for Specialty Crops Program (FSCSC) application deadline is approaching. This program assists specialty crop operations that incur eligible on-farm food safety program expenses related to obtaining or renewing a food safety certification in calendar years 2022 and 2023. The deadline to apply for FSCSC assistance for calendar year 2023 is **January 31, 2024**. If you believe you meet the criteria for this program, click [here](#) to learn more about eligibility requirements or to submit an application.

Programs and Resources

IMPORTANT UPDATE: The USDA has waived the regulatory requirement for producers who are eligible for **Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees, and Farm-raised Fish (ELAP)** and **Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP)**. USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) is waiving the requirement to submit notices of losses within a predetermined number of days for 2023, allowing producers to submit notices as soon as the loss is realized but no later than the annual application deadline for each program. Read the full press release [here](#).

December 2023 Lending Rates Announced for Agricultural Producers: USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) provides loans to agricultural producers to help start or expand their farming operations, purchase equipment and storage structures, or meet cash flow needs. Click [here](#) to view this month's interest rates for loans offered through FSA.

Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees, and Farm-raised Fish (ELAP): ELAP provides financial assistance to eligible producers of livestock, honeybees, and farm-raised fish for losses due to disease, certain adverse weather events or loss conditions, including blizzards and wildfires, as determined by the Secretary. Click [here](#) to view the general fact sheet. Fact sheets for [livestock](#), [honeybees](#), and [farm-raised fish](#) can also be available.

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FARMER RESOURCES

Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP): LFP compensates eligible livestock producers who have suffered grazing losses due to drought or fire on native or improved pastureland with permanent vegetative cover or that is planted specifically for grazing. Click [here](#) for more information and eligibility requirements. Weekly LFP program eligibility maps and tables can be found [here](#).

Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP): LIP provides benefits to livestock producers for livestock deaths over normal mortality caused by adverse weather or by attacks by animals reintroduced into the wild by the Federal Government. For more information, click [here](#).

Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP): NAP provides financial assistance to producers of non-insurable crops when low yields, loss of inventory, or prevented planting occur due to natural disasters. Visit this [link](#) for more details.

Producers can Apply for FY2024 Agricultural Conservation Easement Program Assistance. USDA has made more than \$3 billion in funding available for agricultural producers and forest landowners nationwide to participate in voluntary conservation programs and adopt climate-smart practices in fiscal year 2024 as part of President Biden's Investing in America agenda. Applications for NRCS conservation programs are accepted year-round, but producers interested in this cycle's funding are urged to apply as soon as possible. Producers interested in the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) or Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) should apply by their [state's ranking dates](#) for consideration this year and contact the NRCS at their local [USDA Service Center](#).

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FARMER RESOURCES

USDA Secretary of Agriculture Briefings on the World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates (WASDE) report and the Crop Production report can be viewed live each month starting at 12:05 pm ET, following the release of the WASDE report, on [NASS's YouTube channel](#).

The Tennie Agricultural Group, LLC: Offers agricultural, payroll, and corporate structure with the commitment to providing clients with information and resources that will help them build a sound future. Various agribusiness insurance policies are also available. Visit www.tennieagriculturegroup.com and www.agribusinesscropinsurance.com to learn more.

USDA NASS Crop Production Report: This monthly report contains crop production data for the U.S., including acreage, area harvested, and yield. The report also contains a monthly weather summary, a monthly agricultural summary, and an analysis of precipitation and the degree of departure from the normal precipitation map for the month. Link to current and archived reports can be found [here](#).

USDA Supply and Demand Report: The World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates (WASDE) report is prepared and released by the World Agricultural Outlook Board (WAOB). This report is released monthly and provides annual forecasts for supply and use of U.S. and world wheat, rice, coarse grains, oilseeds, and cotton. The report also covers U.S. supply and use of sugar, meat, poultry, eggs, milk, and dairy products; as well as Mexico's supply and use of sugar. The WAOB chairs the Interagency Commodity Estimates Committees (ICECs), which include analysts from key USDA agencies who compile and interpret information from USDA and other domestic and foreign sources to produce the report. Link to current and archived reports can be found [here](#).

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FARMER RESOURCES

Funding Opportunities

Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI) Foundational and Applied Science Program

The AFRI Foundational and Applied Science Program supports grants in six AFRI priority areas to advance knowledge in both fundamental and applied sciences important to agriculture. These programs The six priority areas are: Plant Health and Production and Plant Products; Animal Health and Production and Animal Products; Food Safety, Nutrition, and Health; Bioenergy, Natural Resources, and Environment; Agriculture Systems and Technology; and Agriculture Economics and Rural Communities. The application deadline is **December 29, 2023**. Click [here](#) to learn more.

Capacity Building Grants for Non-Land-Grant Colleges of Agriculture Program

Applications are being accepted for the Capacity Building Grants for Non-Land-Grant Colleges of Agriculture Program to assist in maintaining and expanding their capacity to conduct education, research, and outreach/extension activities related to the food and agricultural sciences. The application deadline is **January 16, 2024** at 5:00 p.m. ET. For more information regarding this opportunity, click [here](#).

Specialty Crop Multi-State Program

Applications are being accepted for the Specialty Crop Multi-State Program which focuses on addressing regional or national-level specialty crop issues, including food safety, plant pests and disease, research, crop-specific projects addressing common issues, and marketing and promotion. Applications for Multi-State Partners to Participating States are due **December 22, 2023**, and for Participating States to Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) on **January 31, 2024**. Click [here](#) to learn more.

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FARMER RESOURCES

Employment Opportunities:

The National Black Growers Council (NBGC)

NBGC is seeking a finance manager to help the organization achieve its mission. The position will be open until filled. For more information click [here](#). If you are interested in this opportunity contact nbgc@nationalblackgrowerscouncil.com.

Rural Advancement Foundation International (RAFI-USA)

RAFI-USA is searching for a Grassroots Engagement Lead to join their team. Applications will be accepted until the position is filled. Click [here](#) to learn more about this job opportunity and to apply.



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click [here](#) to make a financial
contribution to our organization.

Your support is greatly appreciated!

**WE NEED YOUR
FEEDBACK**

Have suggestions for
next year's
newsletter?

Please complete [this
survey](#) to help us
improve. All
submissions will
remain anonymous.

Thank you for your
input!

VISIT US ONLINE AT:
WWW.FREEDMENHEIRS.ORG

@freedmenheirsfoundation

