

**FREEDMEN
—HEIRS—
FOUNDATION**
PRIDE · PASSION · PROSPERITY



The Minority AgVocate™

DIGITAL MAGAZINE

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A Bold New Look!

Welcome Back! Freedmen Heirs Foundation is excited to announce the revival of the *Minority AgVocate™* as a digital magazine and a vital publication dedicated to supporting and uplifting minority farmers. This relaunch marks a significant moment for the foundation, reflecting its ongoing commitment to addressing the unique challenges faced by minority agricultural communities, particularly those descended from Freedmen. By relaunching the *Minority AgVocate™*, Freedmen Heirs Foundation continues its mission to empower and elevate the voices of minority farmers, ensuring they have the tools and recognition they deserve to thrive in today's farming landscape.



Freedmen Heirs Foundation Highlights

Farmer Meeting RECAP

Weldon, NC

Freedmen Heirs Foundation (FHF) kicked off our 2024 farmer engagement and outreach meetings in Weldon, NC with Cargill as a guest presenter. This event aimed to provide producers with important information on resources and programs available at FHF as well as other opportunities nationally. The event also featured presentations by members of the Cargill team, highlighting the work of Cargill's Black Farmer Equity Initiative as well as information on the many programs offered to producers. By visiting [Cargillag.com](https://cargillag.com), producers can locate information on locations, how to contact grain buyers, and explore sustainability programs,

grain marketing contracts as well as market analytics. Additional information on market analytics can be found in the Farmer Resources section of this publication.



Pictured from left to right: Sedrick Rowe, Jr., Patrice Lazard, Valencia Cooper (Cargill), Seanicaa Edwards Herron, Laura Hatcher (Cargill), Julius Tillery, and Jacob Downing (Cargill)



If you are interested in learning more about the programs discussed during this meeting, please contact us at info@freedmenheirs.org.

Freedmen Heirs Foundation Highlights

Farmer Meeting RECAP

Albany, GA

Last month, the Freedmen Heirs Foundation team held another successful farmer outreach and engagement meeting in Albany, Georgia. The event featured informative presentations by Bill Green, Executive Director of The Common Market Southeast and TyKeidra Young, Southern Conservation Coordinator at the American Forest Foundation.

The meeting brought together a diverse group of attendees including other industry professionals creating an environment that allowed knowledge sharing, fellowship, and networking. Here are some highlights from the meeting presentations:

The Common Market

- Sells fresh, healthy food to community institutions
- Creates a supply chain for farmers and ranchers who are at the forefront of creating an equitable and resilient food system
- Provides avenues for values-aligned wholesale food procurement, guiding partners to see the full value of the food and its impact on the health of people, community, and the environment



Pictured from left to right:
Julius Tillery, Patrice Lazard, and
Sedrick Rowe, Jr.



Pictured: Bill Green
The Common Market



Pictured: TyKeidra Young
American Forest Foundation

American Forest Foundation

- A long-term resource for landowners to improve the health and value of their woodlands, including expert assistance from forest professionals
- Income from the land that can cover the costs of climate-friendly forest management activities
- A voluntary, incentivized-based option to play a role in the fight against climate change that complements other government tools and programs

Farmer Questions

- ? **What crops are The Common Market looking to buy from farmers?**
Crops include lettuce, kale, turnips, bell peppers, collards, cabbage and more. The list is long.
- ? **Are there any required GAP certifications needed to sell produce to the Common Market?**
Yes, required certifications are GAP and a Liability policy.
- ? **What is the cost per acre that American Forest Foundation will pay to plant pine trees on my property?**
Landowners will be paid \$30 per acre.
- ? **How long is a contract and can it be renewed once it ends?**
A contract is 15 years and can be renewed after.



If you are interested in learning more about the programs discussed during this meeting, please contact us at info@freedmenheirs.org.

Agripreneur Spotlight

Miller Farm: A Story of Passion, Pride, and Produce

Meet Susan Miller, a devoted third-generation farmer and co-owner of Miller Farm in Lincoln County, Kentucky (KY). Susan, alongside her family, continues to uphold a rich tradition of growing fresh produce for the local community.

Farming has been a longtime passion for Susan, a third-generation farmer and co-owner of Miller Farm, a 4.5-acre farm located in Lincoln County, KY. As a child, Susan and her siblings would pick the produce her father grew on their 15-acre farm to fulfill canning company contracts. Now, Susan is keeping her family's legacy alive, with the help of her husband George, and their two daughters. Miller Farm specializes in growing a variety of fresh produce, including beans, potatoes, corn, tomatoes, squash, onions, cabbage, cantaloupe, watermelons, and sweet potatoes using black plastic irrigation and high tunnels.



In 2014, the Miller family was named the Small/Limited Resource Producer of the Year at Kentucky State University's Small Farm Conference. Additionally in 2022, Kentucky Farm Bureau accepted Miller Farm into their Certified Farm

Market Program. Currently, Miller Farm provides fresh produce for CSA baskets and sells its produce at the Lincoln County Farmers Market and on their farming operation.

In addition to being a farmer, Susan is also a family resource center coordinator in the Lincoln County school system with plans to retire soon. She believes in giving back to the community and also serves in several advisory and leadership roles in Lincoln County. Susan is currently a board member for Blue Grass

Community Action, Habitat for Humanity, Kentucky Vegetable Growers Association, and Lincoln County Extension District. She is also a State Extension Advisory Council member, Lincoln County Farm Service Agency state committee advisor, Lincoln County 4-H treasurer, and President of Lincoln County Farmers Market.



To learn more about Miller Farm, follow them on social media at @susanmiller1939 on Instagram, Susan Miller on Facebook, or send an email to susanmiller40@hotmail.com.

Agripreneur Spotlight

Upholding Generational Legacy through Advocacy and Entrepreneurship

Read below on how Patrick Brown maintains Brown Family Farms, a farming operation that's been in his family for over a century while assisting new and beginning farmers with their operations

Patrick Brown is a fourth-generation farmer and entrepreneur who grew up on his family farm in southeastern Warren County, North Carolina (NC). Brown Family Farms was established by Patrick's great-grandfather in the late 1800s. Patrick learned how to cultivate tobacco, soybeans, and wheat alongside his father, who was a third-generation farmer. His father taught him everything he knew about farming, specifically food sovereignty. Today, Patrick continues to farm on land that his family has owned for generations.



The Brown Family Farms' mission is to provide customers with natural, holistic, and carbon-neutral products, such as industrial hemp, natural herbs, and

organic vegetables. Patrick not only cultivates and operates the farm but also has a license to process all of his products. The farm uses a vertically integrated operation that allows for the creation, processing, and distribution of products from the farm and online through the farm's sister website, Hempfinitly.

Patrick has been featured at various conferences, on podcasts, and in magazines; specifically the National Black Farmers Association Conference, The Black Equity Network, and *Business View Magazine*. Patrick and his farm were also featured in a short film (*Legacy Regenerated*) produced by Patagonia Films.

Patrick constantly advocates for diversity in agriculture, especially for Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC). He is

the Director of Farmer Inclusion for Nature For Justice, a non-profit 501(c)(3). Patrick also teaches future farmers how to start regenerative and sustainable farming operations through his consulting company, The Connect Group NC LLC. In January 2023, Patrick's company was hired as a partner by the Rodale Institute to provide technical assistance on regenerative agriculture practices for the USDA Climate-Smart Commodities initiative throughout selected states in the Southeast.



EST. 1865
**BROWN FAMILY FARMS
& PRODUCE**



To learn more, visit Brown Family Farm, Hempfinitly, The Connect Group LLC, and Nature for Justice.

Photography Credits: James Parker - Visual Arts Specialist, NC A&T State University

Upcoming Events

Webinars and Live Events

Join us for our next webinar session — **"From Local Farms To National Markets: Diversifying Supply Chains Through Wholesale Partnerships"** — on **April 16, 2024**, at 1:30 pm CST. During this webinar, Lauren Horning, Director of Local Sourcing and Sustainability at FreshPoint, will discuss ways to expand your sales markets and grow your business.

Register below for an excellent opportunity to learn how to leverage growth opportunities to propel your business forward.

[REGISTER HERE](#)

The USDA is hosting a webinar on **April 18, 2024** at 2:00 pm EST for producers interested in learning more about USDA Food Programs and how to become a vendor.

Click the link below to learn more about the webinar and to register.

[LEARN MORE](#)

LIVE WEBINAR

FROM LOCAL FARMS TO NATIONAL MARKETS

TUESDAY

APRIL 16, 2024
1:30 PM CST

Held virtually via Zoom

Register Now



Speaker

Lauren HorningDirector of Local Sourcing
and Sustainability
FreshPoint

The Rodale Institute is hosting a webinar titled **"Overcoming Common Barriers To Organic Certification"**. The webinar will cover essential topics such as managing the transition period, grasping certification costs, dealing with market competition, and more. Webinar participants will also acquire knowledge needed to successfully obtain organic certification.

This webinar will be held on **May 1, 2024**, at 2:00 pm EST. Register now to take part in this insightful event.

[REGISTER HERE](#)

Webinars and Live Events



USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE



Grant Applicant/Awardee Technical Assistance (GAATA)

TOPIC: Demystifying the Panel Review Process for Grant Funding
DATE: May 2, 2024
TIME: 11 AM - 12:30 PM, CST
VIRTUAL PLATFORM: Zoom, Registration required

LEARN ABOUT:

- How peer review panels work
- Different panelist roles
- How you can participate!

[WWW.NIFA.USDA.GOV/EVENTS/GAATA-MAY-2024](https://www.nifa.usda.gov/events/gaata-may-2024)

USDA IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER, EMPLOYER AND LENDER

NIFA will be hosting a webinar on **“Demystifying the Peer Panel Review Process”** on **May 2, 2024** at 11 am CST. This webinar is helpful to prospective grant applicants and panelists. Click the link below to learn more and to register.

[REGISTER HERE](https://www.nifa.usda.gov/events/gaata-may-2024)

LIVE WEBINAR

HABITS THAT CREATE WEALTH

FRIDAY
MAY 10, 2024
1:30 PM CST

Held virtually via Zoom

Register Now



Speaker

P. Wade Ross
Chief Executive
Texas Small Farmers and Ranchers/Community Based Organization (CBO)



Join FHF on **May 10, 2024** at 1:30 pm CST as we discuss practices that can be used to create generational wealth with Mr. P. Wade Ross, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Texas Small Farmers & Ranchers CBO. During our **“Habits That Create Wealth”** webinar, Mr. Ross will touch on common wealth-building barriers that exist and will outline seven principles to immediately include in our daily lives to change the financial narrative for our families.

Don't miss out on the opportunity to discover the good habits that can lead you on the right path to creating generational wealth for your family.

[REGISTER HERE](https://www.freedmenheirs.org)

Webinars and Live Events

FARMERTALK

Hosted by
FHF Farmer Liaisons

Julius Tillery

Sedrick Rowe

Do you like having conversations about farming-related topics? If you are like us, we love having **FARMER TALK!** We love it so much, that we have created a platform for these conversations. Freedmen Heirs Foundation’s Farmer Liaisons, Julius Tillery and Sedrick Rowe, are hosting FARMER TALK sessions on Instagram Live every 4th Thursday of each month at 1:30 pm EST.

During these sessions, we will feature interviews with inspiring Black farmers, advocates, and ag business leaders. Each month we will discuss agricultural-related strategies, on-farm stories, and discussion of topics about farm life that don’t typically get air time. We will laugh, learn, and show

love to the farming community. How can you join? Follow us on Instagram by clicking the link below and join in! We suggest you tap in with your questions, comments, and positive energy. See you there!

FOLLOW US



Upcoming Events

In-person Events



American
Forest
Foundation

FIELD TO FOREST PILOT PROGRAM

Join The American Forest Foundation and The Freedmen Heirs Foundation for a special session on how to harness the power of carbon and timber markets to increase revenue and rejuvenate your farm!

Tuesday, April 16, 2024 at 5:00 PM
The Gathering Place 311 Pine Ave.
Albany, GA 31701

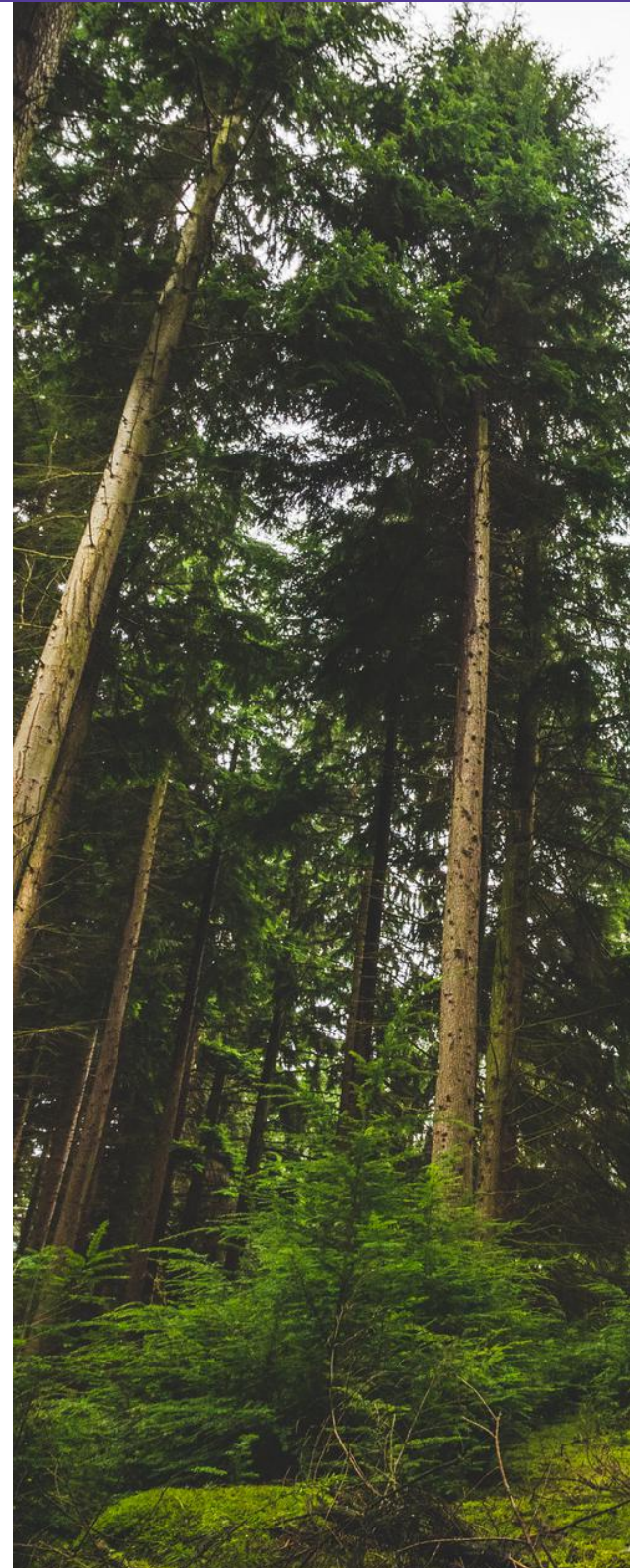
CONTACT US TO LEARN MORE:



229-231-3818



fieldtoforest@forestfoundation.org



In-person Events

Food Entrepreneur Training Available

Food Entrepreneur Training is available in Georgia! Are you starting a new food business or preparing to launch one? Join the Georgia Manufacturing Extension Partnership’s one-day training program tailored for food entrepreneurs in Georgia.

The training sessions focus on improving food safety practices and fostering business development for farmers and food entrepreneurs. The program also encourages networking among industry experts and fellow entrepreneurs. The next in-person session is on **April 16, 2024**.

For more details and to sign up for this training, please click on the link provided below.

LEARN MORE

2024 National Black Grower’s Council (NBGC) Model Farm Series



Date	Location	Host	Focus Crops
May 23-24, 2024	Tanner, AL	Darden Bridgeforth and Sons	Corn, Cotton, Soybeans & Wheat
June 6-7, 2024	Pine Bluff, AR	Conyer Farms LLC	Corn, Rice & Soybeans
June 27-28, 2024	Greenville, MS	Smith Farms	Corn & Soybeans
July 25-26, 2024	Bastrop, LA	Armstrong Farms	Corn, Rice & Soybeans
August 29-30, 2024	Montezuma, GA	James Farms	Cotton, Peanuts & Soybeans

For more information go to:
<https://nationalblackgrowerscouncil.com/> or call (202) 641-4197
NBGC Annual Meeting - December 2024– Information coming soon



In-person Events



May 18th, 2024

BRIARWOOD CATTLE FARM LLC PRESENTS

3rd Annual Day of Healing

Fighting The Unseen Battle of Mental Health

QR code for registration

DAY OF HEALING code

F.A.R.M. Feeding America Real Meat A 501c Non-Profit

Angus Beef CATTLE FARM

END THE STIGMA

Briarwood Cattle Farm is hosting its 3rd Annual Day of Healing, an event that aims to end the stigma around mental health. This event will be held on **May 18, 2024** in Red Springs, NC from 8:00 am to 2:00 pm and promises a day filled with insightful keynote speakers covering a range of topics from the art of yoga, crafting an effective business plan, to navigating agricultural resources tailored just for you. Scan the QR code above to register.

Freedmen Heirs Foundation is delighted to be joining Innovation Forum's Future of Food USA conference this year. The Future of Food conference returns in-person this year in Minneapolis, **May 29-30, 2024**, with 300+ attendees, 30+ practical sessions and 60+ speakers.

This two-day business conference will bring together leading brands and key stakeholders to identify the main areas of opportunity and innovation within the food and beverage industry. We'll assess what supply chain transformation means on the ground to ensure more resilient and regenerative food systems. Click [here](#) to view the full agenda. Speakers

include senior representatives from **Freedmen Heirs Foundation, ALDI, Campbell Soup Company, Mondelēz International, McCain Foods, Danone, Cargill**, and many more.



CONFERENCE

The Future of Food and Beverage

29 - 30 May | Minneapolis

USE CODE FREEDMENHEIRS10 FOR 10% DISCOUNT

Innovation Forum

Key speakers from



Use the link below to view registration details.

MORE DETAILS

Farmer Resources

Programs and Reports

Welcome to our Farmer Resources section, a dedicated space to provide you with valuable tools and information. Explore comprehensive reports and programs as well as funding opportunities designed to provide support for a variety of farming projects and initiatives. Additionally, for those seeking to grow their team or find new career paths within the agricultural sector, we've included a section on employment opportunities that span a range of roles and expertise.

USDA Program Deadlines

Learn more about important dates and deadlines for USDA programs and events.

[LEARN MORE](#)

Farmers.gov | Local Dashboard

Click Explore to find your state and view local data and USDA resources.

[EXPLORE](#)

2022 Census of Agriculture

The *2022 Census of Agriculture* was recently released in February 2024. Explore the full report by clicking below.

[EXPLORE](#)

Finance for Resilience Report

The Croatan Institute in collaboration with the Meridian Institute recently released *Finance for Resilience*, a report that explores major on-farm, off-farm, and systemic risks that the agricultural industry faces and how finance can increase the resilience of those systems while providing other benefits. The report can be access below.

[DOWNLOAD THE FULL REPORT](#)

April 2024 Lending Rates

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 Explore to view this month's interest rates for loans offered through FSA.

[EXPLORE](#)

Programs and Reports

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. Click below to view current and archived reports.

[VIEW REPORT](#)

USDA World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates (WASDE) 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, livestock & meat, poultry, eggs, milk, and dairy products; as well as Mexico's supply and use of sugar. Read the April's report by clicking the link below.

[VIEW REPORT](#)

Secretary of Agriculture Briefings on WASDE and Crop Production Reports

The WASDE and Crop Production briefings can be watched every month beginning at 12:05 pm ET on NASS' Youtube Channel. The briefings will be streamed live just moments after the reports are made public. Click below to watch the most recent briefing.

[EXPLORE](#)

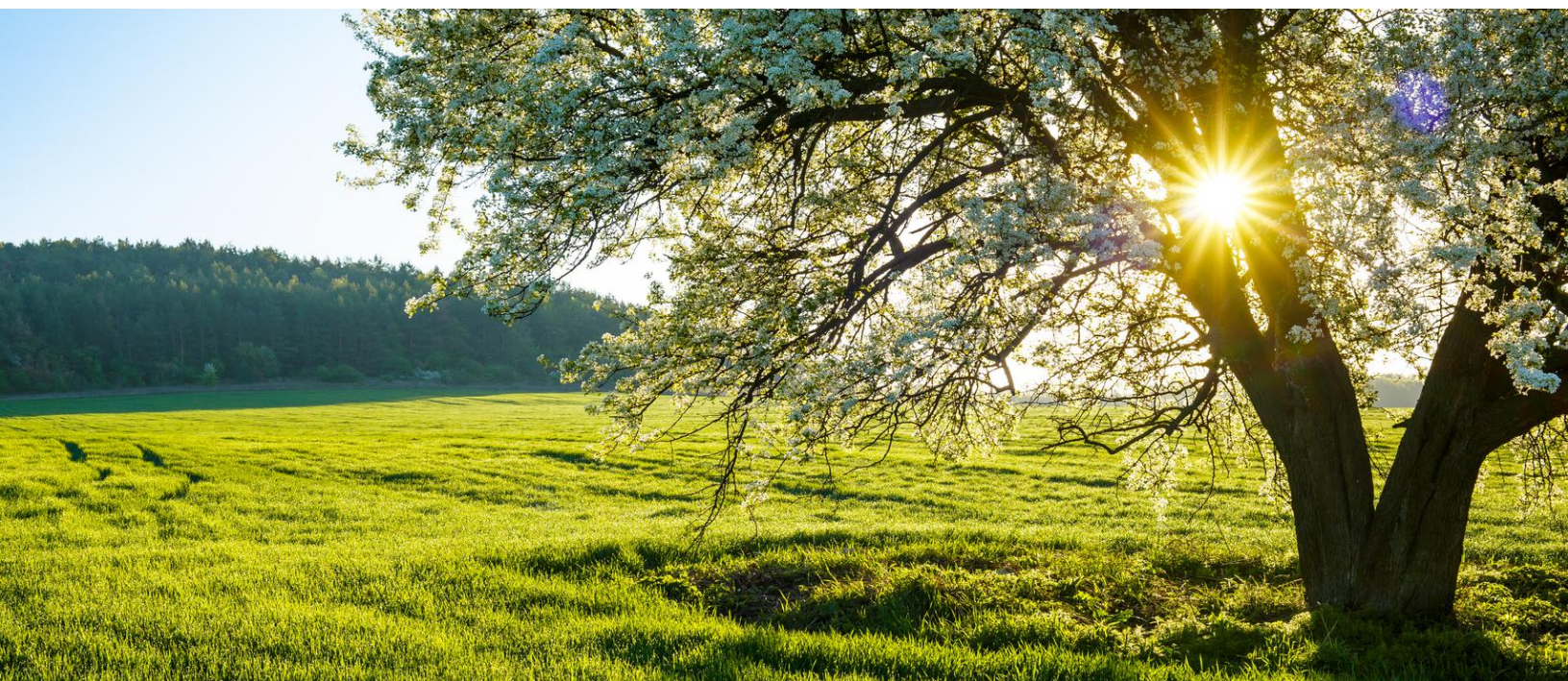
Farmer Resources

Additional Information

We've Recently Launched our Youtube Channel

Freedmen Heirs Foundation is thrilled to announce that we've officially launched our YouTube channel. Subscribe and hit the notification bell to be the first to know about our latest uploads.

Check out our latest webinar — **Soil Health Tools and Strategies**. During this webinar, Dr. Dianna Bagnall, from the Soil Health Institute, discussed various topics related to soil health, including soil health management systems, soil health economics, and soil health education. Click the link below to view.

[WATCH NOW](#)

Additional Information

Decision support, for the individual

Cargill Elevate™

The Cargill Elevate portfolio offers flexibility in controlling your grain marketing program, from the smallest details to long-term planning support.



Cargill Elevate Market Insights help you stay in the know. These are gathered from across the globe to include what you need to know when you need to know it.



Cargill Elevate Pricing Solutions help you market your crop in the way that best suits your needs and your market bias throughout the year.



Cargill Elevate+ (coming soon) gives you all the benefits of Market Insights along with a strong partner to consult with along the way.



Feel confident in your marketing decisions with Market Insights

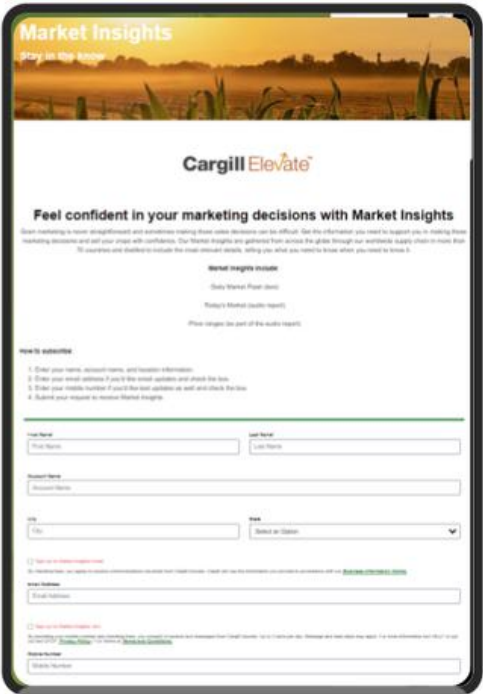
Cargill Elevate™

Get the information you need to support you in making those marketing decisions and sell your crops with confidence.

Our Market Insights are gathered from across the globe through our worldwide supply chain in more than 70 countries and distilled to include the most relevant details, telling you what you need to know when you need to know it.



Scan the QR code to enroll or visit
<https://www.cargillag.com/market-insights>



Farmer Resources

Funding Opportunities

Women Livestock and the Land (WLL) Program

The Women, Livestock, and the Land (WLL) program is designed to assist farmers and ranchers from historically underserved, limited resource, or socially disadvantaged backgrounds in establishing their livestock operations successfully.

Participants will gain knowledge and abilities to enhance the sustainability and profitability of their farms, covering a range of topics that include setting goals, regenerative agriculture, equipment and tools, and more.

The deadline for applications for this program is **April 30, 2024**. To learn more about the WLL Program, please click the link below.

[LEARN MORE](#)

The National Black Business Pitch

Applications for Phase I are being accepted from Black-owned, founded, or controlled businesses across the US. To participate, interested companies need to fill out an application, provide a capability statement, and submit a three-minute video showcasing their company. Winners who proceed to Phase II will have the chance to receive cash prizes of up to \$10,000.

For more information and eligibility criteria, click the link below. The deadline for submitting applications and videos is **June 3, 2024**.

[LEARN MORE](#)

Southern SARE Research and Education Grant

Pre-proposals are currently being accepted now through **June 7, 2024**. This competitive grant is designed to encourage projects that explore a systems approach to sustainable agriculture. Learn more below.

[LEARN MORE](#)

Funding Opportunities

Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has made \$1.5 billion available to assist farmers, ranchers, and forest landowners in implementing and expanding conservation practices to improve natural resources and combat climate change.

NRCS is now accepting applications for the program. The deadline to submit applications is **July 2, 2024**. Click the links below for more information.

[ABOUT RCPP](#)[HOW TO APPLY](#)

Rural Energy for America Program

Applications are being accepted for the Rural Energy for America Program-Renewable Energy Systems & Energy Efficiency Improvement Guaranteed Loans & Grants. The program offers guaranteed loan financing and grant funding to agricultural producers and rural small businesses to support renewable energy systems or enhance energy efficiency.

Additionally, producers can seek loans for new energy-efficient equipment and systems for agricultural production and processing. Explore further and access state-specific details by clicking below.

[EXPLORE](#)

USDA Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS)

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) plays a crucial role in enhancing both domestic and international opportunities for U.S. growers and producers. By collaborating with a diverse range of organizations, AMS extends its support to rural America and the broader agricultural sector, through the creation of programs designed to meet specific needs within the agricultural sector.

Please note that grant opportunities are available throughout the year with varying deadlines. Click Explore to see the full list of opportunities and which program(s) align with your needs. Select the program you wish to learn more about to view details that include the grant opportunity deadline.

[EXPLORE](#)

Farmer Resources

Employment Opportunities



The Soil Health Institute

The Soil Health Institute is seeking a Soil Health Educator to join their team. The role involves creating and implementing educational initiatives to promote the use of soil health management systems in the U.S. Cotton Belt region. For more details about this position and to apply, click the link below.

[LEARN MORE](#)

Do You Have Resources or Information You Would Like to Share?

Freedmen Heirs Foundation is always seeking more resources to include in our monthly magazine that can benefit our readers.

If you wish to contribute an event, program, funding or employment opportunity, please email us with your resource at info@freedmenheirs.org.

Thank You

Support Freedmen Heirs Foundation!



Scan the QR code above or click [here](#) to make a financial contribution to our organization. Your generous donation will help support our mission and make a positive impact on the agricultural community.

Thank you for your continued support!

Follow Us on Social Media



Nominate an Agripreneur

Help us recognize Agripreneurs who are making a difference!

If you know someone deserving of recognition, nominate them to be featured in our magazine by [completing this form](#) or sending us an email at info@freedmenheirs.org. Self nominations are also welcome.



To learn more about Freedmen Heirs Foundation, visit our [website](#).