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PATHSTONE



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DUKE WORLD FOOD POLICY CENTER







# SAFSF 2023 Federal Policy Principles



PRINCIPLE 1: Close the racial and economic gaps created by provisions that subsidize farm consolidation and favor production methods that create barriers and reduce opportunities for operators of small and medium scale farms and historically disadvantaged farmers.



PRINCIPLE 2: Protect our rich agricultural lands and our long-term environmental health through robust conservation programs that support crop, livestock, and natural diversity, as well as conservation-based farming systems, as valuable tools to reduce agricultural risk, support production of nutrient-dense food, sustainable fibers and address water quality, biodiversity and climate change mitigation and adaptation.



PRINCIPLE 3: Repair and rebuild thriving rural communities damaged by farm bill provisions that hasten depopulation and loss of economic opportunity through consolidation and concentration in the agricultural sector.



PRINCIPLE 4: Build resilient local and regional food and fiber systems that safeguard the right of every human being to eat and be nourished regardless of economic circumstances.

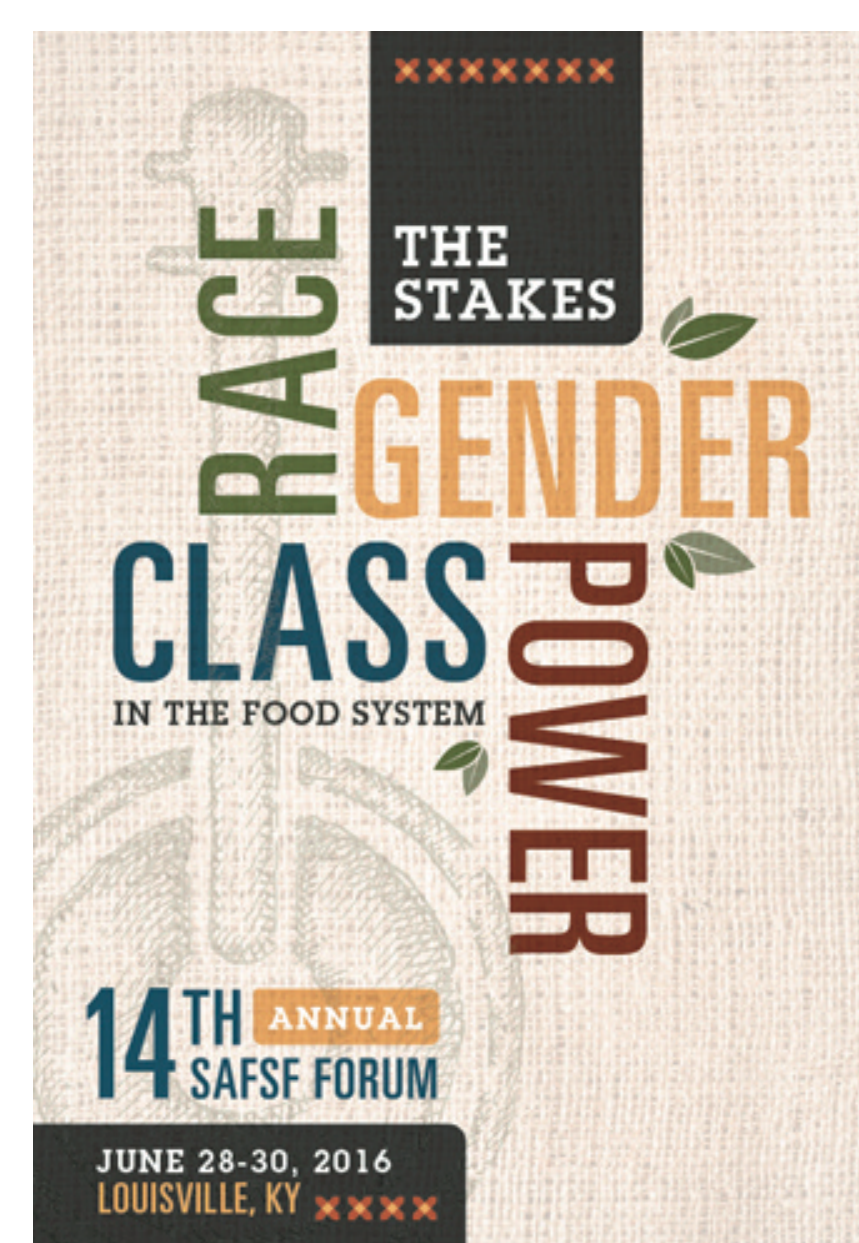
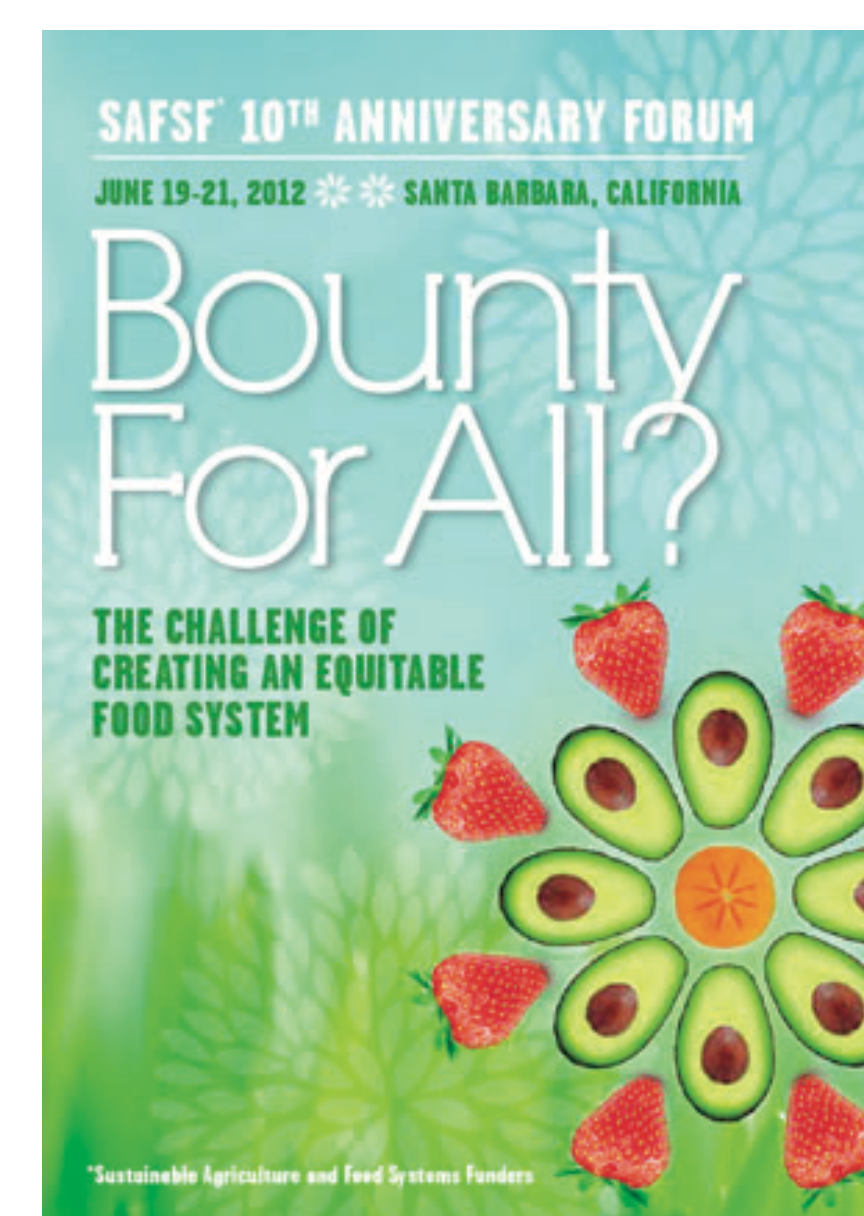
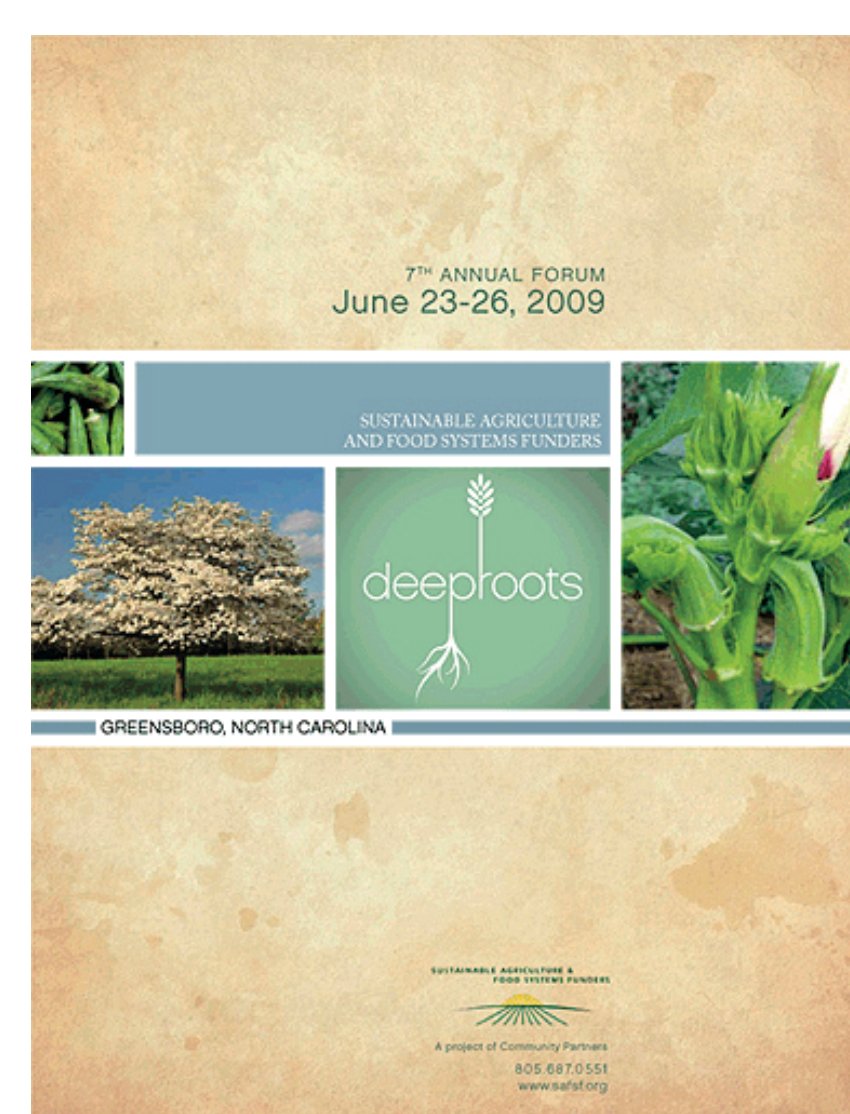
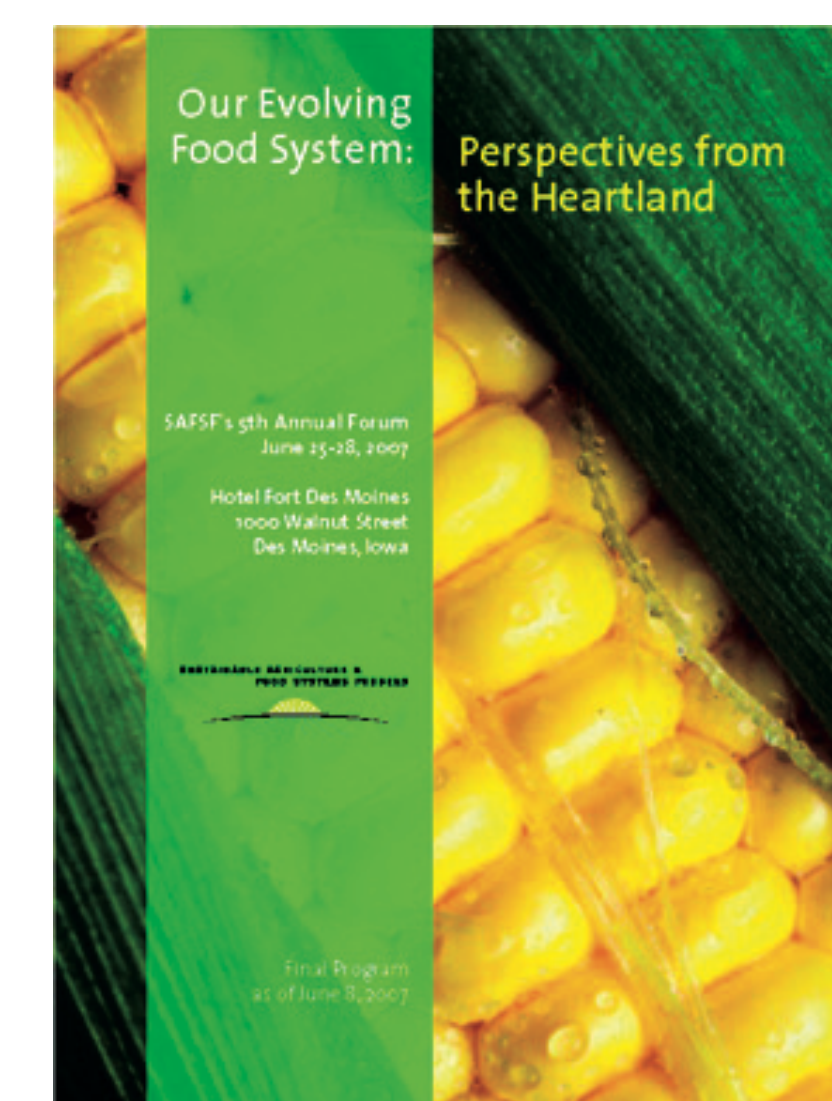
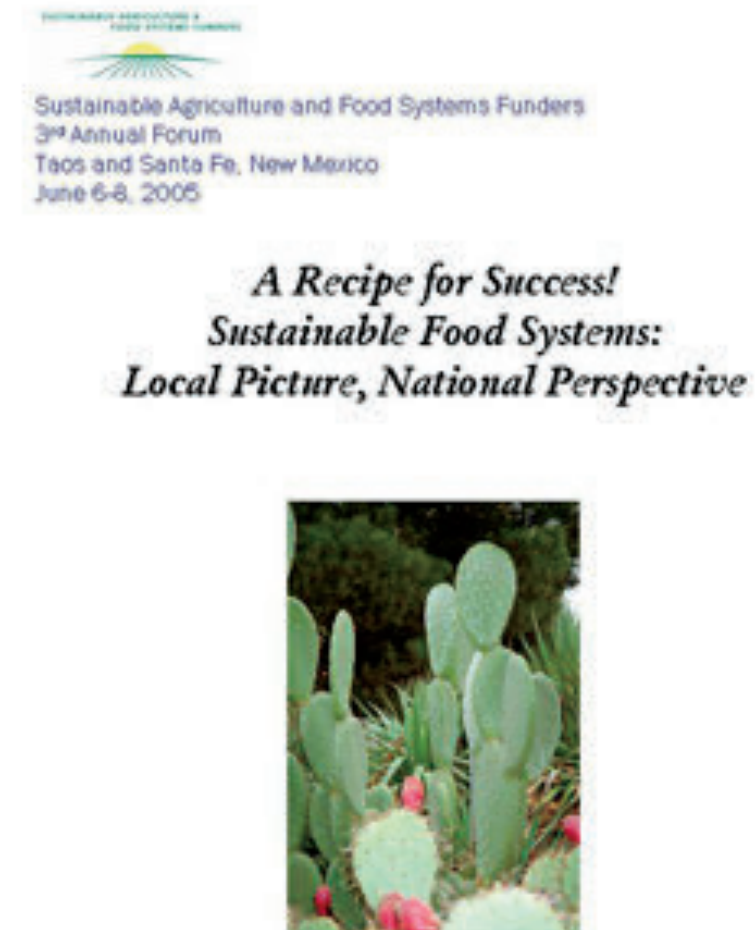




# SAFSF FORUM YEAR BY YEAR



2001  
NEW YORK, NY



See You in  
2025!  
Albuquerque, NM





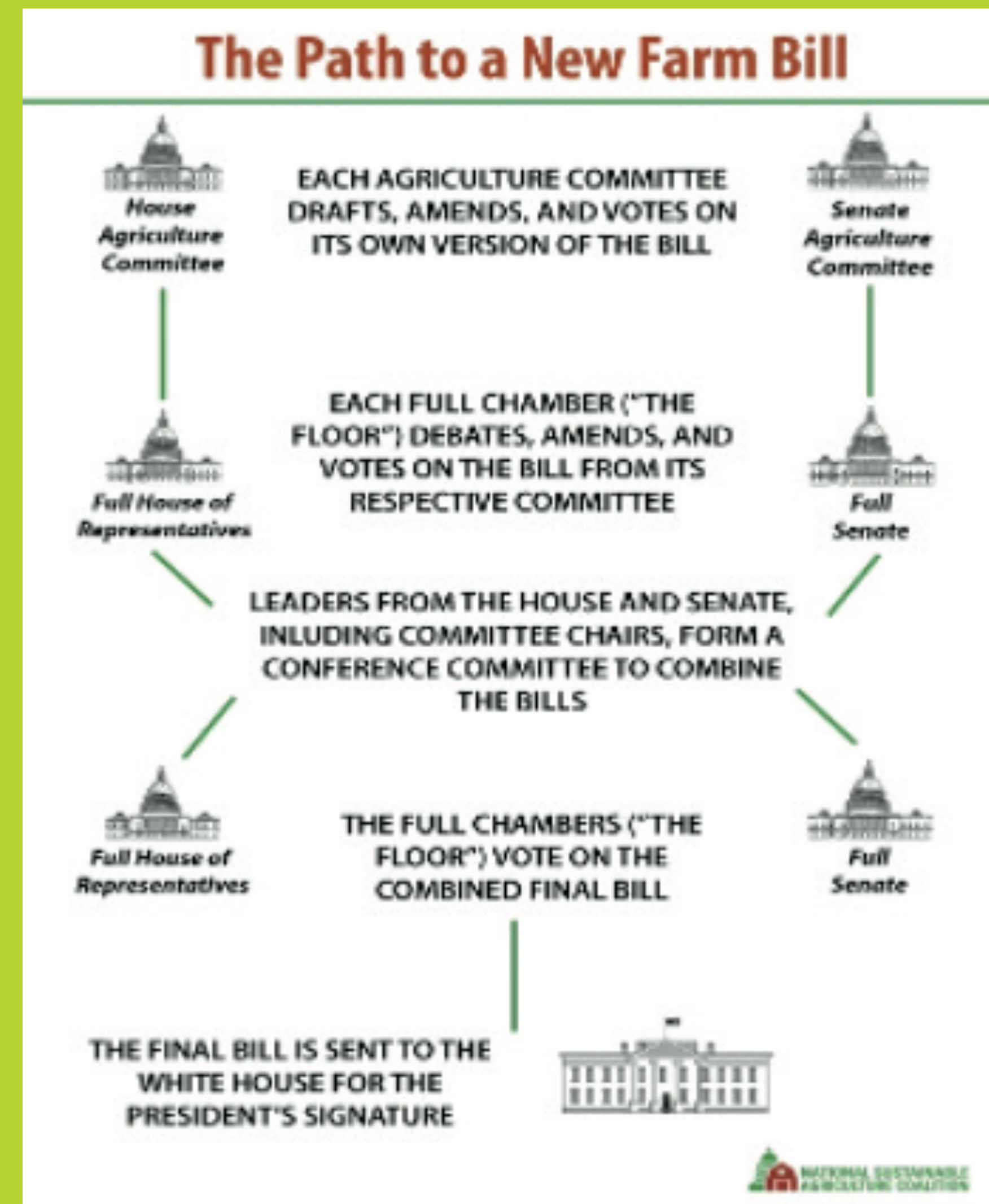
# FARM BILL PRIMER

## What is the Farm Bill?

The farm bill is the most significant piece of legislation Congress enacts that has a direct impact on farming livelihoods, how food is produced, what kinds of foods are grown, and how economically distressed families eat.

The farm bill is typically renewed about every five years. Since the 1930s, 18 farm bills have been enacted (2018, 2014, 2008, 2002, 1996, 1990, 1985, 1981, 1977, 1973, 1970, 1965, 1956, 1954, 1949, 1948, 1938, and 1933).

The 2018 Farm Bill includes 12 Titles and is set to expire on September 30, 2023.



## What's Included and What's Not?

### IN THE FARM BILL

- Title I - Commodity Programs
- Title II - Conservation
- Title III - Trade
- Title IV - Nutrition
- Title V - Credit
- Title VI - Rural Development
- Title VII - Research, Extension and Related Matters
- Title VIII - Forestry
- Title IX - Title XII - Miscellaneous Energy
- Title X - Horticulture
- Title XI - Crop Insurance

### NOT (currently) IN THE FARM BILL

- Farm and food worker rights and protections
- Public land grazing rights
- Irrigation water rights
- Food and Drug Administration (FDA) food safety
- Renewable fuel standards
- Tax issues
- School meal programs
- The Woman, Infants, and Children (WIC) program
- Some pesticide laws
- The Clean Water Act
- The Clean Air Act



## Who in Congress writes the Farm Bill?

- Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry
- House Committee on Agriculture



## How much does it cost?

According to the Congressional Budget Office (CBO), the 10-year baseline (FY2024-2033) for the Farm Bill is projected to be over \$1.51 trillion.

## Big Picture & Politics

- Key debates
  - \$20B in IRA Funding allocated for USDA conservation programs
  - Nutrition program funding
- New Agriculture Committee members and staff
- Chairwoman Debbie Stabenow's 2024 retirement
- Big Ag v. Small Ag (and other hot button words that mean different things to different people)

## Role of Philanthropy

- Building relationships and educating policymakers
- Connecting grantees and advocacy organizations with policymakers
- Funding policy advocacy and grassroots organizing
- Providing matching dollars and technical assistance for federal grants





# FIBERS FUND

**Building an equitable and regenerative U.S. textile industry**

## Our Approach

Combines flexible financing with business technical assistance, grants, and tailored support.

FAIR | LOCAL | REGENERATIVE | TRANSPARENT | RESILIENT

## Growing soil-based natural fibers in U.S.

Financing for small-to-medium U.S.-based organizations both:

- Growing or processing soil-based natural fibers or natural dye materials
- Embracing sustainable/regenerative agricultural practices

Integrated capital support:

- Grants & technical assistance stipends
- Forgivable loans
- Term loans

Inclusive & flexible:

- No personal credit scores or personal guarantees
- Structures tailored to each business: loans, revenue-based financing, and Islamic financing available
- Support for Spanish, French, and Vietnamese speakers

## Building the U.S. natural regenerative fiber ecosystem is our opportunity to invest in equity and climate mitigation

- Soil-based, regenerative natural fibers have fewer negative impacts on our ecologies and the people who work with them.
- Building soil-based natural fibers unlocks the potential for regenerative land management, climate change mitigation, and an alternative to the extractive textile industry.
- Regenerative fiber producers and sustainable textile businesses are using practices that honor the humans, animals and ecological relationships that create our material realities.
- Recognizing the legacies of fiber & textile production in the U.S., supporting Black and Indigenous producers and processors acknowledges these communities as crucial to a truly regenerative ecosystem.



SAFSF



FIBERSHED

mission driven  
finance



## Fibers & The Farm Bill

### Farm Bill Programs We Hope to Tweak for Inclusion of Fibers

- Local Agriculture Market Program (LAMP)
- Business & Industry Loan Program
- Farm Real Estate and Operation Loans
- Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)
- EQIP Conservation Innovation Grants
- Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI)
- Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE)
- Organic Agriculture Research and Extension Initiative (OREI)

### Farm Bill - Proposed Pilot Fibers Program

#### Intermediary Revolving Loan Fund

- Federal grants to qualified private, non-profit entities to provide revolving loan funds for sustainable fibers entrepreneurs for the following purposes:
  - Business needs or requirements, including gap financing or similar needs for development and expansion of sustainable fibers entrepreneurs; and
  - Short-term costs incurred for replacement equipment, or other small capital projects that are not part of the regular operations and maintenance activities.

#### Technical Assistance Grants

- Federal grants to qualified private, nonprofit organizations to provide the following:
  - Training, operational support, business planning, and market development assistance, and other technical assistance or related services to sustainable agricultural fibers entrepreneurs, such as assistance accessing both private and public sources of capital.



# AREAS OF IMPACT

## Agricultural Products



Animals-Fibers/Textiles-Fish-Fruits/Vegetables-Grains-Seeds

## Environmental Sustainability



Biodiversity-**CLIMATE CHANGE**-Compost-Farmland Conservation-Food Recovery-Genetic Modification-Nanotechnology-Pollinators-Soil-Water Quality

## Farm & Farming Systems



Agroecology-Beginning Farmers & Ranchers-Farm Succession-Farmer Technical Assistance-Indoor Agriculture-Organics-Pasture Raised Meats-Regenerative Agriculture-Urban Agriculture

## Health



Human/Public Health-Hunger-Nutrition-Pesticides-School Food-Toxics

## Justice



Equity-Food Access-Food Sovereignty-Immigration-Labor-**LAND ACCESS**-Racial Justice-Refugees-Rural Communities-Social Justice

## Markets



**CONSOLIDATION**-Direct Marketing-Economic Viability-Infrastructure-Institutional Markets-Regional Food Systems-Trade



**For many years, we have used this taxonomy to ask SAFSF members what areas they are funding and tracked movement across these areas of impact over time. Since 2021, we have put more focus on three of these areas that offer multiple points of intersection with almost every one of the others: Climate Change, Land Access, and Consolidation.**

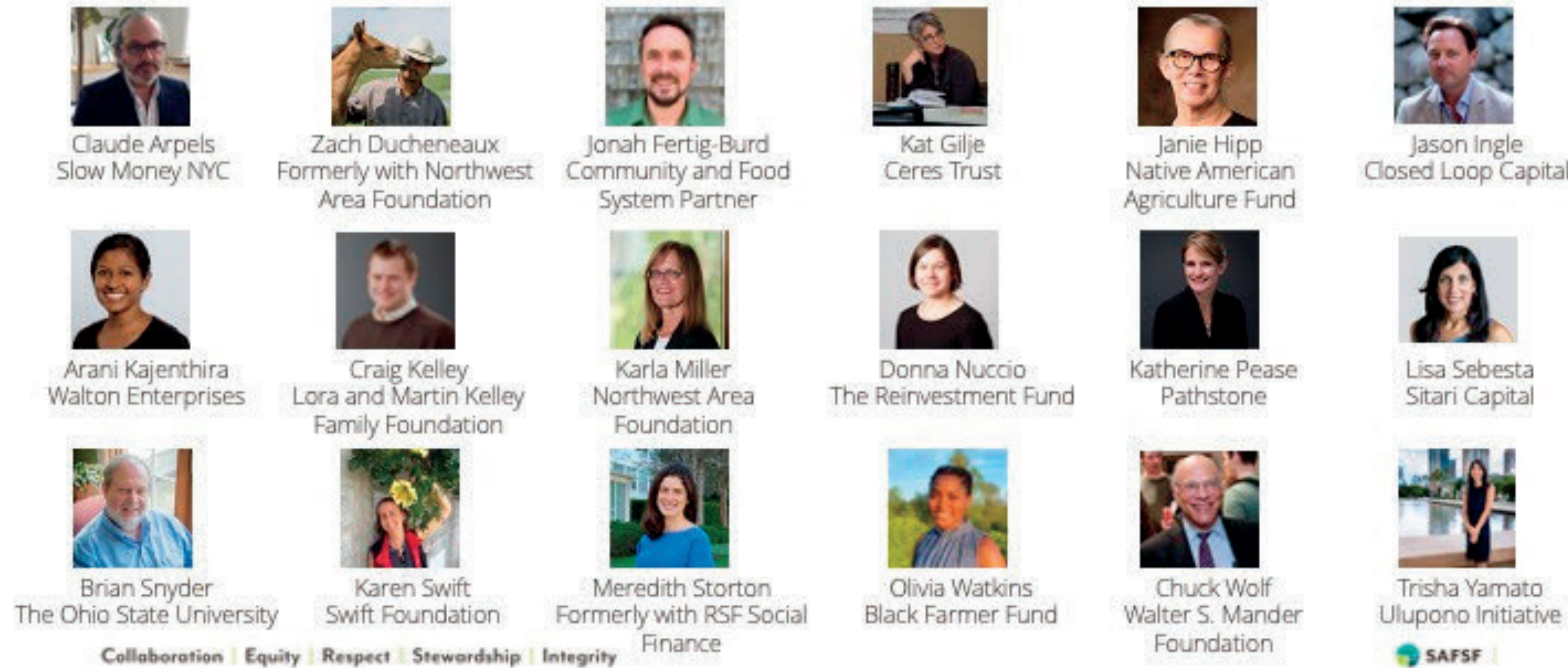
**Do these Areas of Impact reflect the current state of agriculture and food systems funding? Are all of these areas still relevant? Are there areas of work that are not reflected? Does this taxonomy ring true for you?**

**Share your thoughts here or in Whova in the “Areas of Impact” Community Space.**



## What's Up with Food and Farm Investing: A Peer Conversation with the SAFSF 2020-21 Investment Cohort

### SAFSF Investment Cohort Members



During the COVID years of 2020 and 2021, SAFSF presented approximately 60 virtual events each year. In 2022, with the return of our in-person Forum, we offered nearly 100 webinars, workshops and site visits. We are on track to equal or surpass that in 2023! Some highlights:

### 2020

- COVID Response and Strategy Call Series, with NASDA regional calls
- 2020 SAFSF Forum
- Fibers Roadmap Series
- Policy Outlook and Strategy Conference
- 2020-2021 Investment Cohort

### 2021

- 2021 SAFSF Forum
- Regional Food Funder Networks Series
- 2021-2022 Indigenous Food Systems Community of Practice
- Policy Series with FORA
- Racial Equity Habit Building Challenge Group

### 2022

- 2022 Policy Convening with Hill and USDA visits
- 2022 SAFSF Forum - Kansas City (in-person)
- Members In the Kitchen Calls
- Farm Bill Policy Chats
- Food is Medicine and White House Conference on Hunger, Nutrition and Health webinars

## Indigenous Food Systems Community of Practice - Virtual Sessions





# DIGGING IN



**A Nathan.Works Production with Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems Funders | Underwritten by Vatheuer Family Foundation**

The SAFSF-produced documentary "Digging In" uses video content to bring an intentional focus to three specific areas of impact in agriculture and food systems - land access, consolidation and concentration, and climate change. More than 40 organizations and individuals contributed to the information and stories that made it on-screen, still just scratching the surface of these complex issues.

Host and narrator Masika Henson meets farmers and experts, whose own stories demonstrate the human impact of these challenges, as well as some of the promising solutions. Along the way, she grapples with her own emotions and personal history, and experiences aspects of the food system she's never seen before, as eyes and ears for the viewer.



TJ Heinnert searches for a buffalo to harvest for a community event on Wolakota Buffalo Range, South Dakota.

Filmed in Kansas, Missouri, South Dakota, California, Atlanta, and Washington, DC, "Digging In" opens the conversation for funders to learn more and go deeper on these intersectional issues that affect every aspect of the food system.



Narrator Masika Henson visits with Matthew Wilson in a greenhouse on the Rosebud Sioux Reservation in South Dakota.



Project Manager Jay Austin and Director of Production Esai Sanz filming as Masika Henson talks with farmers Webster Davis and TJ Cooper in Auxvasse, Missouri.

