

# FAMILY FARM AGENDA

December 2025

## Moving Forward with Confidence and Purpose

*By Jim Goodman, NFFC Co-President*

Eight years ago NFFC was entering into what at the time was uncharted territory or uncharted waters depending on one's point of view. That has a lot of inside meaning for members and allies who have been involved with NFFC and NAMA for many years and it probably is not totally lost on newer folks either. We had just lost our long time executive director Kathy Ozer and while we were still confident of our mission and strategic objectives and were confident of our staff's ability to carry on, we knew we needed a strong successor for Kathy — so how to move on?

As the entire nation had moved into a new political landscape in 2017, the concerns of navigating a new Administration and Congress, as well as increased hostility towards women and BIPOC members of our global family, the need for increasing fundraising and maintaining adequate staffing, were daunting to say the least. As the board weighed our options knowing there were many, a shared leadership model with NAMA with Niaz as the shared executive director seemed to answer both our short term needs for leadership and continuity, as well as a path to long term growth and stability for both organizations.

Looking back one realizes that sometimes the right person is in the right place at the right time — lucky NFFC. While everyone, NFFC, NAMA and Niaz had confidence we could make this work, we knew it was not a permanent situation, but one that could strengthen both organizations. With some sharing of staff and an executive director who proved more than up to the task of this new leadership model, we now find ourselves in a position where it is time to, again, move on.

Both organizations have grown, in staff, budget and workload. Our mission of advocating for fair prices for farmers/ranchers and fisher-folk, a fair and just food system, respect and inclusiveness for farm workers, women, the indigenous, immigrants and minorities must go on as we again face some of the outrageous challenges of the current administration.



*NFFC staff and members enjoying Farm Aid's 40th anniversary concert in Minnesota.*



## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Jim Goodman, Co-President  
(Family Farm Defenders)

Tiffany Bellfield El-Amin, Co-President  
(Kentucky Black Farmers Association)

Mo Murrie, Treasurer (Rural  
Advancement Foundation  
International)

Megan EisenVos, Clerk (Dakota  
Rural Action)

Betsy Garrold (Food for Maine's  
Future)

Dena Hoff (Northern Plains  
Resource Council)

Graham Unangst-Rufenacht (Rural  
Vermont)

Nathan Galaviz (Agrarian Trust)

Sam Wagner (Dakota Resource  
Council)

Savi Horne (Land Loss Prevention  
Project)

Stephanie D. Banks (Federation of  
Southern Cooperatives)

## STAFF

Austin Bryniarski, Government  
Relations Coordinator

Cindy Ferrier, Operations Associate

Jordan Treakle, Coalition Programs  
and Policy Director

Lateefah Morse, Development  
Coordinator

Lisa Fernandes, Development  
Director

Maria Superti, Operations Director

Meghan Stratton, Member  
Organizer

Niaz Dorry, Executive Director

Rosa Bordallo, Communications  
Associate

Samantha Cave, Communications  
Coordinator

The work and time commitment of two organizations has become too much for shared leadership. Niaz has more than met the challenges of the past eight years, and I am quite at a loss for words to describe my gratitude. In addition to losing Kathy eight years ago, our long time board chair Ben Burkett stepped down and as I struggled to fill those very large (and well polished boots) I could have had no one better than Niaz as a friend and mentor.

And now it's my turn to pass the gavel, a self imposed term limit. I think a new board chair, with boundless energy and experience beyond her years, lets me, with confidence, ask Tiffany to begin her role as board chair. Like Niaz I'm not going anywhere yet, still plenty of work to be done. In hindsight it has been a real trip.

In solidarity and hope,



**Jim Goodman**, Co-President

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## Our Road Ahead

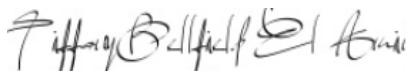
*By Tiffany Bellfield El-Amin, NFFC Co-President*

Dear NFFC members, friends, and family,

I have had the pleasure of being our Vice President thus far. I've watched and participated as this organization has stood on the frontline of so many global and national political movements for food and freedom for the fishers, farmers and ranchers. As a member I took it as an honor and a privilege to be on the team of the National Family Farm Coalition. A coalition of human beings who do this work because it is destined, it is important, and it is a priority. Because we feed one another. Because it is what is RIGHT & EXACT! When I first met Niaz Dorry and then met each representative of the member organizations, I understood the mission and it ALIGNED with everything in my heart. Fairness. I've been marching with NFFC ever since.

I was overjoyed when asked and voted in to be the new board chair President. The gratitude is immense, but there is a long road ahead with the current political climate we are in. However, there are also so many opportunities for change. Adding in the transition of board chair and new Executive Director, it is truly a new beginning all around surrounded by deep roots of a leadership culture that I am sincerely appreciative to add to. Cheers To 2026!

Peace,



**Tiffany Bellfield El-Amin**, Co-President



# COLLECTING GRATITUDE

# Honoring our Farmers and Leaders

Who or what inspired you to join the movement?

Who or what has helped you persevere through the hard times?

Will you share your story and give a gift of gratitude (in someone's honor if you like)  
so our vital work together continues?

As NFFC prepares to launch into a new year, new strategic plan, new chapter of leadership, and our 40th anniversary in 2026 – please help us honor Kathy Ozer's legacy and Niaz Dorry's incredible impact as Executive Directors, our founding member groups, farmers and the other leaders who have shaped our lives and our movement.

## THREE WAYS TO SHARE YOUR GRATITUDE:

**1. In the mail** - Use the enclosed envelope to share your words of thanks and/or enclose a check for a special year-end gift.

**2. Share your Story and Give Online (including Tribute Gifts)** - Go to <https://rebrand.ly/NFFCgratitude> or scan the code to the right to share your story online! Then, click the next Donate button to share a one-time or monthly gift of support.

**3. Online Giving Only (including Tribute Gifts)** - Go to <https://rebrand.ly/NFFCdonate1> or scan the code to the right to give your one-time or monthly gift of thanks to NFFC.

**We can only transform our food systems when we work together, and every donation helps - thank you!**



Share Your Story



Online Giving





*NFFC staff and members pose at our Annual Gathering in Billings, MT!*

## NFFC members are making a difference!

### Dakota Rural Action

DRA supported 10 folks' fly-in meetings to D.C.; 17 attended Farm Aid; one intervener in a federal lawsuit to protect a conservation program; over 30 citizen interveners in proposed mining projects in the Black Hills region with over 300 public comments! After years of organizing, HB1052 became law, banning the use of eminent domain for carbon pipelines. We say thanks and goodbye to two longstanding program and staff directors as DRA steps into the next chapter of building power.

### Family Farm Defenders

We just awarded our John Kinsman Prize Beginning Farmer Award to 3 small midwestern farms during our annual meeting! As part of the weekend festivities, we also hosted a screening and panel discussion of the Price of Milk film about the dairy checkoff.

### Farm and Ranch Freedom Alliance

FARFA organized four Lobby Days at the Texas Capitol with 60+ farmers, hosted its first Lunch & Learn with 35+ staffers, and led its first DC Lobby Day meeting with 30+ congressional offices. This year, FARFA engaged over 60 congressional offices, advanced the LOCAL Foods and PRIME Acts, and is developing a soil health bill. In Texas, FARFA leads on food freedom and sustainable agriculture legislation, notably passing major Cottage Foods expansion and developing a groundbreaking regenerative agriculture research bill. And our 2025 Conference drew over 500 participants!



*John Peck and Sarah Lloyd of Family Farm Defenders informing Farm Aid goers about water pollution and safety at their Home Grown Village booth.*

### Federation of Southern Cooperatives

The Federation celebrated our 58th annual meeting with a three day event in August! In December, we'll also be holding our 7th annual Forward: Heirs' Property Boot Camp brings together landowners, next-gen heirs, attorneys, and practitioners to learn practical information for resolving heirs' property issues.

### Iowa Citizens for Community Improvement

Over the course of 2025 in Iowa everyday people went up against corporate power to fight for a food & farm system that works for farmers, workers, eaters, and the environment. In 2025 CCI Action members defeated the Cancer Gag Act at the state level. CCI members and local folks from North Central



Iowa won two local ordinances that provide some protections from Summit Carbon Solutions proposed CO2 pipeline. (Summit is a sister company to Summit Ag Group owned by factory farm kingpin Bruce Rastetter). CCI members also fought for more fair markets for cattle producers in particular, fighting for mandatory country of origin labeling for beef.



KBFA staff and members at the 2025 Black Urban Growers Conference. Photo courtesy of KBFA.

### [Kentucky Black Farmers Association](#)

KBFA had a busy 2025 year! We celebrated our 2nd Annual Kentucky Black Farmers Gathering in Louisville, Kentucky, hosting nearly 100 BIPOC farmers from the region. We discussed food systems, cooperative economics, sustainability and how we preserve during uncertain times. This year we also increased our community outreach by sponsoring our members to attend conferences & gatherings across the Southeast, including the Federation of Southern Cooperatives Annual Meeting. Working side by side with the Federation, we hammered down the steps needed to create cooperatives within the state. We also had the pleasure of going to the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation's 54th Annual Legislative Conference in September with young emerging policy leaders in the ag field here in KY!

### [Land Loss Prevention Project](#)

LLPP, as a public interest law firm, provides direct legal representation to individual and family landholders across the state of North Carolina. In addition to this work, staff attorneys make regular presentations with community groups, law schools, technical services providers and associations of attorneys. Since June, we have given at least 12 presentations to more than 500 participants and have four more presentations coming up. We also updated our "Ten Ways to Save Your Land" handbook as part of community education activities. The handbook addresses the vulnerabilities associated with land, home, and farm ownership; the opportunities

available to secure these foundational assets; and supportive services available to protect and advance intergenerational financial stability. The updated edition includes new appendices for legal, local government, and emergency resources as well as information from other authors.

### [Missouri Rural Crisis Center](#)

MRCC continued to fight for fair trade and pricing policies that serve producers, not just multinational corporations, including the reinstatement of Mandatory Country of Origin Labeling for beef, strong enforcement of antitrust laws, and a Farm Bill that prioritizes rural resilience. Read our recent op-eds about these topics online at [www.morural.org](http://www.morural.org)!

### [North American Marine Alliance](#)

After doubling NAMA's team in 2024, this year we were a plant growing into a much larger pot! We knew we had to pace ourselves, take in plenty of water, and allow room for new roots to grow. Among other achievements, we built community around our Atlas for Values-Based Aquaculture, participated in the Turtle Island delegation at the Nyéléni Forum in Sri Lanka, convened Black and Native leaders in Alabama, and helped introduce the Keep Finfish Free Act of 2025.



NOFA was honored with NFFC's Golden Trowel award for "most inspiring organization" at our 2025 Annual Gathering!

### [Northeast Organic Farming Association](#)

All seven NOFA chapters collaborated on an on-line symposium, December 16 - 17, featuring emerging research, innovative practices, and regionally relevant production challenges. For 50 years, the NOFA Interstate Council has published The Natural Farmer, a quarterly newspaper on newsprint. This year, Editor Liza Gabriel redesigned the paper as a magazine. <https://www.thenaturalfarmer.org/> The articles are shorter, the photos brighter, and each issue has a special focus. The chapters hold winter conferences - for all the listings see <https://nofa.org/2026-winter-conferences/>



### Northern Plains Resource Council

We are proud to have collaborated alongside Rep. Ryan Zinke on the Country of Origin Labeling Enforcement Act of 2025, continuing our history of advocacy on this important issue that directly impacts both US consumers and beef cattle producers! Visit us online for more information from our members about why they support country of origin labeling.

### Powder River Basin Resource Council

Powder River Basin Resource Council convened a well-attended state-wide meeting on resilience, independence, and local foods. We successfully worked with our legislature on COOL support and other agricultural legislation. We were affected by large wildfires in late summer and fall of 2024, so our other 2025 agricultural efforts were in support of resilience and recovery efforts for those affected via collaborative workshops. We continue to address the impacts of natural resource extraction on our members' land, water, and air.

### Rural Advancement Foundation International

RAFI's Grassroots Farm Policy Program awarded \$531,000 to 27 grantees across 18 States and Territories. GFPC enhances the capacities of smaller farmer-serving groups, from Alaska to the Caribbean, to build their federal farm policy engagement muscle through connections, training, and financial support.

### Rural Vermont

2025 marked Rural Vermont's 40th anniversary with progress on key priorities identified by our agrarian community, and in collaboration with allies. This included: the bicameral (re-)introduction of the



*Rural Vermont celebrated their 40th anniversary with a festive celebration in Barre, VT. Photo courtesy of Rural Vermont.*

LOCAL Foods Act; the passage of a new VT law that raised the license free income threshold for cottage food producers; responding to the Federal Administration's threats to farm(work)ers and the broader working class; 20+ workshops and farmer exchanges; and continued growth of the People's Agroecology School of VT.

### Women, Food and Agriculture Network

WFAN wrapped our Stories of the Seasons project this spring with the launch of our Iowa Ecological Calendar and digital StoryMap! This summer, we paired beginner farmers with mentors across seven states in our Harvesting Our Potential (HOP) program. This fall, we had a sellout HOP Learning Circle webinar on land transition, rebooted our Plate to Politics program with the start of our Advocacy & Policy 101 webinar series, and had our Stewardship Ambassadors reach thousands with their stories.

Visit [www.nffc.net/about-us/nffc-member-groups](http://www.nffc.net/about-us/nffc-member-groups) to see all of our current members. Make sure to sign up for their newsletters and follow them on social media!

# NFFC is turning 40!

## Join our anniversary celebrations in 2026

NFFC was founded in 1986, and 2026 will mark 40 years of our coalition's shared work! 2026 will also see us with a new Executive Director, and the successful conclusion of our 8-year shared leadership model with NAMA. Since our founding, NFFC has grown to be a national, grassroots voice uplifting the voices of farmers, ranchers, and fishers in Washington, DC. Over the past four decades, our coalition has accomplished many significant wins and have built a closely-knit group of members and allies ready to tackle challenges together and celebrate our successes.

**We cannot wait to celebrate these important milestones with our members and allies, and are planning special events, announcements, and swag that you won't want to miss!** Make sure to sign up for NFFC's monthly e-newsletter and follow us on Facebook, Instagram and Bluesky (usernames on the back of this mailing) for the most up to date news. Visit our website to sign up for the newsletter, or just scan this QR code!





# Eight Epic Years!

*From Niaz Dorry, NFFC Executive Director*

The shared leadership started as a “three year creative exercise” to help two aligned organizations with lots of similarities thrive. In the proposal I shared with the boards of NFFC and NAMA at the time, I suggested that success of the shared leadership model can look like any of these four outcomes:

1. It's working, let's keep going
2. It's not working so let's break up before we hate each other
3. It's working, but we have to tweak a few things
4. It worked! It's time to go our separate ways

For most of the past eight years, we have been functioning within the third bullet point as we have had to tweak a few things along the way.

Some time in the later half of 2024 it became clear to me that we are approaching the realm of the final bullet point. What we set into motion was working and the two organizations began to feel like two individuals with distinct personalities and unique needs.

With that realization came the clarity that the time has come for NFFC and NAMA to once again have their own unique leadership that fits their unique DNA structures. I began talking with both organizations' boards in early 2025 and began to put into motion what some on staff have been calling the conscious uncoupling!

As I began to consider what that means for me personally, I realized that my DNA most closely matches NAMA's. So once the new ED is hired and fully onboarded, I'll be returning to my previous role of only being NAMA's coordinating director.

The sense of personal loss and grief that comes with this decision is real. **I can't begin to describe what I have learned over the past years and how much I'll miss the personal relationships that have**

**flourished over this time.** The personal growth I've experienced is largely attributed to the relationships with the NFFC membership who from day one embraced this model and me along with it. The memories of the 2018 America the Bountiful Tour are forever etched in my mind and heart.

And don't even get me started about my colleagues. I'm so proud of what we have been able to do together and can't thank them enough for their generous spirits and selfless commitment to the organization. Any successes attributed to me are simply the sum of the talent and passion of my colleagues.

Speaking of generosity, I would be remiss if I didn't acknowledge the role of our donors and funders. Without them, the growth and stability we have experienced would not have been possible.



*Niaz with Northern Plains Resource Council members Steve Charter and John Brown, at Steve's cattle ranch near Billings, MT.*



*Enjoying Farm Aid with (left to right) Bette Billiot and Justin Solet (NAMA), Niaz Dorry, Ben Burkett (Federation of Southern Cooperatives)*



**In my mind, organizations are like homes. The home that is NFFC has expanded.** We did some remodeling, rebuilt a few rooms, and updated a few fixtures. We didn't have to raze it and build something new because the home's foundation and bones were solid. And we have NFFC's strong history and past leadership of folks like Kathy Ozer to thank for that.

And just as with any home, keeping it safe and sound is a constant work in progress and regular maintenance moving forward is non-negotiable. Even the best homes need to be tweaked to meet the needs, styles, and functionalities as time passes. We may need a new roof, or an updated bathroom here and there, or deal with normal wear and tear. That is normal.

The next NFFC executive director needs to bring the qualities of a good architect who sees the good bones, but also sees the needs for updates and possible other remodeling as they explore every room and nook and cranny of the organization.

It's important that they have all the maps and specifications they need to continue taking care of this important home. I'll be by their side as much as they need me to support, give a lending hand, offer a shoulder, or whatever is needed to ensure this home continues to stay strong for its members, its missions, its staff, and its future.

I have so much love and gratitude for the NFFC family who occupies this home. Thank you for rolling out the welcome mat for me when I came in and I look forward to giving you all a big hug goodbye - in person or virtually - as I make my way into my other home.

In solidarity,



Niaz Dorry, Executive Director



*NFFC staff at our annual retreat in Brattleboro, VT.*

## Highlights from NFFC Staff

### **Austin Bryniarski, Government Relations Coordinator:**

After many successive Farm Bill years and still no Farm Bill, I'm proud of our analysis and activation around the provisions that were pushed through the reconciliation process earlier this year, as well

as attention and intervention on the political moment and what it's meant for issues like farmland affordability, antitrust, and credit. We have had to think creatively about how to take advantage of non-Farm Bill opportunities to advocate for our platform.

### **Cindy Ferrier, Operations Associate:**

Since joining NFFC in April 2025, I've really enjoyed supporting the team and helping our day-to-day operations run more smoothly. From organizing workflows to assisting with administrative tasks, I've been proud to contribute behind the scenes and help keep our coalition's work on track. It's been rewarding to know that my efforts help support the team and the important work we do for our members.

### **Jordan Treakle, Coalition Policy and Programs Director:**

Years of movement building across North America and at the international level culminated into two important successes in 2025 – the formal reconstruction of La Via Campesina (LVC) North America, and the 3rd Global Nyeleni Forum in Sri Lanka. LVC and the Nyeleni process are deeply intertwined grassroots efforts to nurture the global food sovereignty movement through political education, policy advocacy, and building collective



power across rural communities. I'm thankful to have supported both movement spaces over the past years, and see NFFC continuing in leadership roles in LVC and Nyeleni heading into 2026.

**Lateefah Morse, Development Coordinator:**

Learning the inner and outer workings of NFFC and given the relational, intentional, and values-driven nature of the work, has made my first year at NFFC feel deep and meaningful. From attending meetings focused on on-farm slaughter to having kitchen table discussions while petting puppies, my knowledge of family farming has significantly expanded. I am excited about the opportunity to welcome and engage with supporters and partners in the community that has been nurtured over the past 40 years.

**Lisa Fernandes, Development Director:**

We are ending 2025 on a solid financial footing thanks to our core funders and our building out of a development team to fuel NFFC's work. NFFC's longstanding policy to not seek federal funding has special poignancy this year, as we work in solidarity with those affected by the turbulent waters of our time. As NFFC begins to celebrate its 40th year, our coalition's efforts are more important than ever. We are learning about and meeting new potential funders, creating a monthly giving program, and continuing to mobilize resources for our partners. Lastly, we are preparing to carefully separate the fundraising team and systems that NFFC and NAMA have shared since 2018, being very careful to ensure a solid foundation for NFFC's next exciting phase.

**Maria Superti, Operations Coordinator:**

With Cindy's help, we are on track to FINALLY complete the overhaul of NFFC's personnel policy. This has been a long time coming and a labor of love for the entire team. I'm really proud of what we

have put together! I think it does well to represent NFFC's values toward organizational health and staff happiness.

**Meg Stratton, Member Organizer:**

This was a tumultuous year, and at every turn I was struck by the collective action and deep analysis of our members, the instinct to come together, to collaborate, to share resources, and stay rooted. Our Annual Gathering in Montana was a huge highlight; we started off with an inspiring, grounding visit to a NPRC member's ranch and finished with an enthusiastic confirmation of a new strategic plan. In a time where people could turn inward, instead we're seeing new faces and a renewed energy to stand together.

**Rosa Bordallo, Communications Associate:**

June is National Dairy Month, and I'm really proud of the content we created to educate a general audience about the history of dairy farming in America. This was part of our narrative strategy to raise awareness and support for supply management and other policies in our Milk from Family Dairies Act. I am also proud of NFFC for voicing solidarity with Canadian dairy farmers at a time when their own supply management system is under attack from unjust trade policy.

**Sam Cave, Communications Coordinator:**

This year, I was most excited about NFFC's expanded media reach and the cultivation and deepening of our relationships with reporters. We solidified news stories in the New York Times, the Hill, Politico, Hearst TV, Civil Eats, and more! It's incredibly gratifying to be able to support our members in getting their voices heard. We have big plans to continue to expand these vital opportunities for our coalition.



*Staff and members hanging out after a day of strategizing during the annual gathering in Billings, MT. Photo by NFFC.*



*Coming together in Washington, DC for our fall "mini" fly-in in November. Photo by NFFC.*



# NFFC at the 3rd Nyeleni Forum in Kandy, Sri Lanka

The Nyéléni Forum is the leading international space for the food sovereignty movement to gather and strategize. This year was the 3rd Nyéléni Forum, culminating a four year political organizing process focused on building the future of the global food sovereignty movement. In September, NFFC staff and members joined more than 700 individuals from 102 countries in Kandy, Sri Lanka to chart a path forward for a more just and ecological food system. Together, our global alliance strategized a joint political agenda to push back against the corporate domination and neoliberal policies that continue to threaten our food and farm systems.

On behalf of the US Food Sovereignty Alliance, NFFC was proud to lead the North American region's coordination process for the 2025 Forum. Six delegates from NFFC's member organizations — including Family Farm Defenders, Rural Vermont, Northeast Organic Farming Association, North American Marine Alliance, and the Federation of Southern Cooperatives -- attended the 2025 forum. In addition, our Programs and Policy Director, Jordan Treacle, joined as a Global Steering Committee member. NFFC's involvement builds upon our work to advance just policy reform in Congress that centers family-farmers, not agribusinesses. We are eager to share back the [lessons learned and action items](#) from the Nyéléni Forum — keep in touch for more coming soon!



*Photo with some of the North American delegation, by Sarah Gilliatt (pictured center).*



*"Opening Ceremony Day 3" by 3rd Nyéléni Global Forum, CC BY-NC-ND 4.0*

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“It was a powerful and intense experience to be that close to both the struggle and strategies of so many agrarian and social movement leaders from around the world. Co-creating a Declaration and a Common Political Action Agenda that can guide grassroots work across many territories and contexts was no small feat. **I came home inspired, and with a renewed responsibility and commitment to implement lessons learned, and do work in my home community that's aligned with a global road map for food sovereignty.**”

**- MOLLIE WILLS, RURAL VERMONT AND 2025 NYÉLÉNI DELEGATE**

“The power of solidarity with small farmers, fishers, and food workers from around the world is what our beloved world needs now to overcome our polycrisis. It is our shared struggle to wrest power away from corporations who are prioritizing profit and redirect humanity's indomitable spirit towards people, other species, and the planet. **The vision for food sovereignty, in which peoples around the world can determine their food policies and cultures, is in all of our interests.** We have the solutions - we need the cross-sector, systemic change we were inspired to bring to life during our time in Sri Lanka! Through economic democracy, we can join hands to build an equitable and ecological future for all.”

**- SARAH GILLIATT, NOFA-NH FARMER AND 2025 NYÉLÉNI DELEGATE**



# Policy priorities and wins:

## The Farmland for Farmers Act

The Farmland for Farmers Act is the first-ever national policy addressing speculative corporate buy-up of US farmland. The Farmland for Farmers Act protects farmers and rural landowners from losing their land to corporations by restricting future farmland ownership and leasing by corporate investors. We continue to work to get the bill reintroduced this Congress.

## The Fair Credit for Farmers Act (S.3126)

The Fair Credit for Farmers Act (S.3126) makes important improvements to services offered by the Farm Service Agency, a public agency of the USDA. The Act offers stronger protections and more flexible credit terms for independent producers. In 2024, the FSA made improvements to their loan programs, but we continue to advocate to pass those expanded protections into law!

## The (LOCAL) Foods Act (S.1212 and H.R. 5341)

The Livestock Owned by Communities to Advance Local (LOCAL) Foods Act was reintroduced as a bipartisan bill in both the House AND the Senate this year! The act updates the personal-use exemption in the Federal Meat Inspection Act to align with current USDA standards, clarifying that on-farm slaughter of livestock that a person owns is legal. The LOCAL Foods Act protects the rights of livestock owners, producers, and itinerant slaughterers and expands access to locally produced meat.

## Our coalition is making an impact! In 2025, we also...

- Successfully adopted our new Strategic Plan that will guide and inform our mission, vision, and areas of work for the coming years.
- [Joined Farm Aid](#) in celebrating their 40th anniversary, including pre-concert events like farm tours and an inspiring Farmer Forum, with more than half of our member groups.
- Organized two [fly-ins](#), in spring and fall, bringing more than 30 members to meet with dozens of Congressional offices about our policy priorities.
- Hosted our [2025 Annual Gathering](#) with 16 member organizations in Billings, MT in partnership with the Northern Plains Resource Council.
- Continued participation in the [Stop Land Grabs Coalition](#), engaging on land issues with many different grassroots alliances and networks in the US and around the world.
- Participated in key partnerships with the [US Food Sovereignty Alliance](#), [Citizens Trade Campaign](#), [Dairy Together](#), [Coming Clean](#), and many more.
- Fought for effective, strong enforcement of antitrust law including the Packers and Stockyards Act, along with the [Campaign for Contract Agriculture Reform](#).
- Spoke out against the [funding freezes](#) impacting government grants and assistance, [layoffs at USDA](#), and overly broad [tariff policies](#), all of which impacted our farmer members.
- [Submitted public comment](#) on important regulatory proposals including: a new rule in the Packers and Stockyards Act, the planned reorganization of the USDA, and the US-Mexico-Canada Agreement review process.
- Continued active participation in international spaces, including the coordination of the North American region of La Via Campesina, joining the [2025 Nyéléni Forum](#) and the 53rd Plenary of the UN Committee on World Food Security (CFS).
- Collaborated with National Farmers Union Canada to build public and media [support for supply management](#) in the US dairy sector.
- Embarked on an exciting new participatory research project to build collective power around our land work and demonstrate the key role of public policy in farmland governance.
- Remained a thriving, financially stable organization, thanks to our many generous supporters who helped us meet our program and personnel needs.
- Welcomed new staff members and consultants to the team, bringing fresh talent and ideas to our coalition.



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