



CULTIVATING THE NEXT GENERATION OF BLACK FARMERS

Confronting Barriers to
Entry into Midwest
Agriculture: Stories and
Policies

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AGENDA

Introduction

Primary Goals

Pembroke Farmland Restoration

Areas of Support Needed

ENDANGERED: BLACK FARMING

Of the 70,000 farms in the state of Illinois today, only 188 are owned by Black farmers. This is a stark contrast to 1920 when 890 farms were owned and operated by Black farmers in Illinois. Across the nation, black farmers have decreased by 98% between 1920 and 1997.

Illinois Stewardship Alliance, Black Farmers Legislation 2022





PRIMARY GOALS

Restore farming in the largest black farming community north of the Mason Dixon Line, Pembroke Township Il.

Re-establish local food system framework to contribute to the Illinois/Midwest foodsheds

Secure the needed resources and skill sets to successfully restore black farming in Illinois/Midwest



PEMBROKE FARMLAND RESTORATION

From Fallow to Fruitful

PEMBROKE FARMLAND RESTORATION: FROM FALLOW TO FRUITFUL



LAND RETENTION

Land Loss Prevention
Pay back and current
taxes for 6 years to turn
farmland into revenue
generating source



LAND LEASING

Leasing land to train
Apprentices to farm



SMALL FARM VIABILITY

Facilitating small
farms increasing their
income streams



APPRENTICESHIPS

Cultivating the next
generation of black
farmers

NEEDED AREAS OF SUPPORT

1

LAND

Retain existing farmland while securing/regaining addition land to farm, heirs property support

2

EQUIPMENT

Increase equipment access for small holder farmers via sponsored Share/Lease/Purchase programs

3

INCREASE ACCESS TO MARKETS

Encourage the reconnection of local rural and urban food producers, distributors, processors and markets to support greater regional foodshed resiliency

4

LENDING

Provide greater access to capital providers that offer appropriate and fair financial products that support regenerative farming efforts

5

DEVELOPMENT

Support policy, tax incentives; and federal and grant opportunities that grow local equitable agro-economies



THANK YOU!

Looking forward to working with everyone