LAND SUCCESSION AMONG AFRICAN AMERICAN FARMERS

HOST: JOHN JAMERSON PROJECT DIRECTOR

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LIFE PROJECT
LEGACY FARMING & HEALTH GROUP
THE LEGACY CONTINUES

ESTABLISHED IN 2016
TEAMWORK MAKES THE DREAM WORK

NBFA 2019
Chuck Bawldwin-AgrAbility
John Boyd -NBFA
DeAnthony, John, Gabriel, Andromeda & Jettie- LFHG

LIFE Project Group
TJ, Chuck, DeAnthony, Jettie, Andromeda, Tameka, Gabriel, Denise & John

NRCS 2019
John, Jock Webb, TJ & Kwen
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OBJECTIVES: FOR SOCIALLY DISADVANTAGED AND VETERAN FARMERS

Increase number Socially DisAdvantaged Farmers-New/youth/Urban and Veterans Farmers

Introduce Access to USDA Programs, Grants, Scholarships and Loans

Involve Participants in USDA Programs, Grants, Scholarships and Loans

Increase participation in USDA Programs, Grants, Scholarships and Loans

Training in Innovative processes and Technology
LAND SUCCESSION AMONG AFRICAN AMERICAN FARMERS
GETTING DOWN TO THE ROOTS

SYSTEMIC
Black farmers have experienced a long history of state-sanctioned discrimination that has robbed them of millions of acres of farmland and billions of dollars in lost wealth. For years, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) systematically denied and delayed loans to Black farmers. As a result, the number of Black farmers fell from a peak of nearly 1 million in 1910 to less than 40,000 today.

The record of racial discrimination in agriculture is not in dispute. A 1994 report commissioned by the USDA itself confirmed that the largest loans and disaster payments flowed to large white farmers. Black farmers sued the USDA. And though a settlement was reached, an investigation by the National Black Farmers Association and the Environmental Working Group (EWG) showed that the USDA made matters worse by withholding funds.

CULTURAL
The New Farmers of America (NFA) was organized in Tuskegee Alabama and became a national organization for African-American young men in 1935. The organization was formed to serve agriculture students in southern states where schools were segregated by law. Much like the National FFA Organization (FFA), NFA sought to provide 30K young men with vocational, social and recreational activities in order to develop their skills in public speaking, leadership and agricultural trades. The two organizations merged in 1965.
GETTING DOWN TO THE ROOTS

SYSTEMIC

At their peak in 1910, African American farmers made up around 14% of all U.S. farmers, owning 16 million to 19 million acres of land. By 2012, black Americans represented just 1.6% of the farming community, owning 3.6 million acres of land. Another study shows a 98% decline in black farmers between 1920, and 1997.

The U.S.D.A. ascribed this decline to a long and “well-documented” history of discrimination against black farmers, ranging from New Deal and USDA discriminatory practices dating from the 1930s to 1950s-era exclusion from legal, title and loan resources.

Starting in the 1950’s Blacks began to leave their farms known as the “Northern Exodus” for safety, promised opportunities and better treatment.

Family farms were left in Trusts and wills that were never transferred, lost due to tax laws and predatory practices that seek unknown heirs and force sales of these generational farms.

Nationally, between 1983 and 2013, median black household wealth decreased by 75% to $1,700 while median white household wealth increased 14% to $116,800.

This was attributed to “general housing and lending discrimination through restrictive covenants, redlining and other lending practices.”

CULTURAL
RESURGENCE OF BLACK FARMERS

USDA 2501 Grant: is now targeting to correct the systemic issues of the past by partnering with groups to create that change. The LIFE Project is a direct result of that. There is still much work to be done.

But after 100 years in decline, Black farmers are making a comeback. These farmers aren’t just growing healthy food, but just as importantly they are healing racial traumas, instilling collective values, and changing the way communities of black folks think about the land.

LIFE Project: Through partnerships
- NBFA National Black Farmers Assoc.
- Legacy Farming and Health Group
- AgrAbility
- Purdue Extension
- Local Organizations: Churches, Groups and Hospitals
- NCOBRA
- Winston County Self Help Co-Op
- NRCS
- USDA

Target programs directed towards New Farmers, Youth and Ag Business we are moving in the right direction. It takes all of us to make a difference.
TODAYS GUEST

Denise Greer-Jamerson
Legacy Taste of The Garden, LLC Operations Manager
Greer Farms Est. 1855
Comes from a Black farming community and a generational farm established Pre Civil War. Will discuss her experience with Heirs property and Farm Succession.

Frank Taylor
Winston County Self Help Co-Op
Shares the 35 year history of His organization and How they help farm family to save their land and assist in directing them on options and resolution about their land.
THANK YOU

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HTTP://WWW.THE-LIFEPROJECT.COM/