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**SEPTEMBER
NEWSLETTER**

**VOL 1
ISSUE 6**



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FREEDMEN HEIRS FOUNDATION HIGHLIGHTS



AG STUDENT SHOWCASE

For the graduating class

Freedmen Heirs Foundation presents our Agriculture Student Showcase. In October, we will be highlighting the experiences and achievements of African American agriculture students in our newsletter. Freedmen Heirs Foundation's Agriculture Student Showcase creates an opportunity for agribusinesses to connect with bright, young talent that can impact and advance the agriculture sector.

If you are a senior in college majoring in Agriculture or a related field, and would like to be featured in our Agriculture Student Showcase, or if you would like to recommend a student to be showcased, please send an email expressing your interest to info@freedmenheirs.org.

A MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Hello Freedmen Friends,

I'm excited to invite you to an upcoming webinar hosted by Field to Market: The Alliance for Sustainable Agriculture™ on September 26th that will introduce Freedmen Heirs Foundation's Social Mass Balance framework, featuring presentations by myself and Deanna Peterson of Cargill, Inc. This webinar will offer valuable insights and strategies that can be implemented to equitably support the integration of Black farmers into major supply chains and result in strategic partnerships across the agri-food sectors. This webinar is a can't-miss opportunity, and we want you to join us. To learn more and register for this event please click [here](#). We look forward to seeing you there.

I would also like to acknowledge all agricultural communities affected by the recent hurricane, Idalia. The resilience and strength of all farmers are commendable. In these challenging times, let's all stand together and support the farmers and communities that feed us.



Seanicaa Edwards Herron

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FARM IDENTITY

Farm Identity: Gaining Access to USDA Resources

Written by: Jasmine D. Hendrix, PhD, Freedmen Heirs Foundation Director of Programs

Freedmen Heirs Foundation is frequently asked questions regarding how farmers can become eligible to actively participate in United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) programs, receive technical assistance, and funding opportunities to grow their farm businesses. The USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) is the place to start. FSA offers various programming opportunities and financial assistance. This article showcases Freedmen Heirs' responses to a series of frequently asked questions to help farmers prepare to access resources through USDA.

How do I begin?

To become eligible for USDA programs and resources, it is required to first register the farm with FSA. To register a farm, a farmer is encouraged to schedule a meeting with a local FSA staff member to obtain a farm number. Farmers can locate local FSA offices [here](#).

What to expect during the initial meeting with FSA?

Farmers are advised to set aside adequate time (2-3 hours) to complete paperwork and bring the following documentation to the meeting:

- **Proof of Identity.** This can consist of a valid driver's license, social security card, etc. This information will assist FSA in establishing a customer record associated with the land. Reference [Form AD-2047](#), Customer Data Worksheet, for additional details.
- **Proof of Land Ownership or Management.** This information can consist of a copy of a recorded deed or leasing agreement. For farmers who have inherited land without legal documentation of ownership, USDA offers alternative methods to showcase proof of ownership or control of the land. Learn more [here](#).
- **Entity Identification Status.** If applicable, farm entities will need to provide articles of incorporation, partnership agreements, trust documents, etc. to effectively establish a farm record.

Once a customer record is established, FSA staff will determine if the land is registered in the FSA database. If there is no farm record of the land in the database, FSA staff will construct a geographical sketch of the land outlining acreage parameters (i.e., cropland acres, wetlands, erodible fields) to establish a farm record. Following, a farm serial number will be assigned to the farmer. Please note that farm numbers are issued for free.

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FARM IDENTITY

What is a farm serial number?

A farm serial number (FSN), is an identification number assigned to a specific parcel of land once registered as a farm by FSA. The farm number is associated with the land and not the farmer; therefore if ownership of the land changes, the existing farm number will remain with the designated area of land.

What are the benefits of having a farm number?

Acquiring a farm number can provide several benefits for farmers. Pertinent benefits are:

Access to USDA programs and services: A farm number is a prerequisite for accessing government programs and funding related to agriculture via USDA agencies such as FSA and Natural Resource and Conservation Service (NRCS). These programs can include funding for conservation practices, disaster assistance, crop insurance, loans, and more.

Examples of programs and services offered by some USDA agencies are:

FSA:

- [Disaster Assistance Programs](#)
- [Emergency Conservation Program](#)

NRCS:

- [Environmental Quality Incentives Program](#)
- [Conservation Stewardship Program](#)

Participation in FSA County Committee elections:

Having a farm number allows farmers to elect officers from farming communities that will help prioritize and deliver USDA programs and meet local needs of the county. Learn more about FSA County Committee elections [here](#).

What is required after I've registered my farm?

Once the farm is registered, the farmer will work with the USDA agency of interest (i.e., FSA, NRCS) and a member of the staff will assist with completing the application process for the desired USDA program(s) pursued. Depending on the type of program and resources desired, various forms (i.e., Farm Operating Plan, Income and Tax Information, Conservation Compliance) will be requested to complete the application process. A recommended list of documents to prepare when applying for USDA farm programs can be sourced [here](#). Also, see important dates for USDA programs deadlines [here](#).

For additional questions and support, connect with us at info@freedmenheirs.org.

References and Additional Resources:

[Heirs' Property Landowners](#)

[Your Guide to FSA Farm Loans](#)

[Get Started: Resources for Historically Underserved Farmers and Ranchers](#)

[Minority and Women Farmers and Ranchers](#)

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AGRIPRENEUR SPOTLIGHT

Briarwood Cattle Farm: How Agriculture Heals

Military veteran and cattle rancher Marvin Frink reflects on how farming changed his life

Although born in a Floridian neighborhood where crime and poverty were prevalent, Marvin Frink and his parents were determined to ensure he did not succumb to the challenges of his environment and would grow up to be a success.

Upon graduating high school, Mr. Frink decided to join the military to provide for his family and serve his country. Dedicating 15 years of service, including deployment to Iraq, Marvin found himself afterwards dealing with high levels of anxiety and depression. His father, the late Reverend Kirby Frink, noticed he was suffering with Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and introduced him to farming as a therapeutic coping method.

Years later after the passing of his father, Marvin continued the dream his father had for him of becoming a cattleman. Today, Mr. Frink continues to advocate for farming and working with cattle on a daily basis as a transition aid from military life to civilian life.

Briarwood Cattle Farm is a first generation farm located in Red Springs, NC. The beef cattle



operation produces and sells premium quality grass-fed beef, free range chicken, and pork.

Mr. and Mrs. Frink express gratitude for the daily opportunity to help feed their community, support fellow veterans, and advocate for farming and agriculture as a way to heal those struggling with mental health.



For more information on Briarwood Cattle Farm, visit: www.briarwoodcattlefarm.com.

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AGRIPRENEUR SPOTLIGHT

Developing Solutions Through Hemp Cultivation

Mr. Harold Singletary leads BrightMa Farms with an advanced, technological approach

BrightMa Farms is a vertically integrated minority business enterprise and a veteran-owned operation based in South Carolina that offers customized hemp breeding solutions across a variety of industries. With a focus on a “People-Planet-Profit” approach, BrightMa Farms believes in forming sustainable partnerships to create innovative and inclusive solutions through industrial hemp cultivation.

Mr. Harold “Big H” Singletary serves as CEO of BrightMa Farms. He grew up working on a farm owned by his grandparents in South Carolina, and acknowledges the significant experiential history behind the operation. Named after Harold’s great-great-grandmother who was enslaved, BrightMa Farms strives to fulfill the potential of hemp to benefit farmers of color and society as a whole.

Mr. Singletary is passionate about utilizing technology to advance the BrightMa Blueprint. His desire to create opportunities for Black farmers, paired with his U.S. military experience and extensive professional background, are the catalysts that drive his success in business and agriculture.



Mr. Singletary’s vision for BrightMa Farms is to create motivational experiences and opportunities for minority farmers, leveraging technology to create a circular economy model based on integrity, transparency, compliance, and social and environmental sustainability.

Harold is dedicated to driving BrightMa Farms forward with the power of technological, sustainable solutions for farming communities. He prides himself on being a husband and father that lives by the family mantra of “Test Driving All Dreams!”

For more information on BrightMa Farms, visit www.brightmafarms.com.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Black Professionals in Food and Agriculture (BPFA) Congressional Black Caucus Reception

This event, hosted by the Black Professionals in Food and Agriculture (BPFA), will be held on **Tuesday, September 19, 2023**. Click [here](#) to register. Please see flyer for details. Please note: Registration ends on **September 18, 2023** at 5 p.m. EST.

2nd Annual Harvest Ball hosted by The Tennie Agricultural Group, LLC and Farmers Outreach Solution, Inc

The Tennie Agricultural Group, LLC and Farmers Outreach Solution, Inc is hosting its 2nd Annual Harvest Ball on **November 3-5, 2023**. This two-and-a-half day outreach event is custom-designed to meet the needs of minority farmers while celebrating accomplishments within the agricultural community. The deadline to register for this event is **September 29, 2023**. To register, click [here](#). See the full flyer below for additional details.

Introducing Social Mass Balance™: A Quantifiable Metric of Social Sustainability in Agricultural Supply Chains

Field to Market: The Alliance for Sustainable Agriculture™ is hosting a live webinar on **September 26, 1-2 pm EDT**, introducing Freedmen Heirs Foundation's Social Mass Balance™ program. Seanicaa Edwards Herron, Freedmen Heirs Foundation Founder and Executive Director, and Deanna Petersen, Cargill Corporate Responsibility Strategy Leader, will discuss the revolutionary approach which enables agribusinesses to diversify and expand their supply channels while also promoting racial equity and social responsibility in the agriculture and food sector. Click [here](#) to register.



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UPCOMING EVENTS



**Black Professionals
in Food and Agriculture**

2ND ANNUAL
CBC
Reception

SEPTEMBER 19TH | 6:00 PM
ALLIANCE TO END HUNGER ROOFTOP |
425 3RD ST. SW, WASHINGTON, DC

   bpfadc.org

This event is intended to be a reception under compliance with House and Senate gift rules. Administration officials and staff will be required to check with their designated agency ethics official regarding restrictions.

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UPCOMING EVENTS



The invitation card features a light green background with an orange border. At the top left, there is an illustration of pumpkins, gourds, and lit candles. At the top right, there is an illustration of a lantern, pumpkins, and gourds. The text is centered and reads: "You are cordially invited to the 2nd Annual Harvest Ball 'Now That The Harvest Is Over'". Below the text are two golden wheat stalks. The date "Nov 3-5 2023" is displayed with a sunburst behind the numbers. The location is "Hilton Raleigh North Hills Hotel, 3415 Wake Forest RD, Raleigh, NC 27609". At the bottom, it lists the host "Farmer's Outreach" and the presenter "The Tennie Group LLC" with their respective logos and taglines.

You are cordially invited to the

2nd Annual
Harvest Ball

"Now That The Harvest Is Over"

Nov | 3-5 | 2023

Hilton Raleigh North Hills Hotel
3415 Wake Forest RD, Raleigh, NC 27609

Hosted By:



Farmer's Outreach
"The Agri-Business Solution"
A 501(c)(3) Non-Profit Organization

Presented By:



The Tennie Group LLC
A Tax & Accounting Firm
AGRICULTURE
"The Agribusiness Way"

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Details

Friday, November 3rd, 2023

Farmers Forum
 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm

HBCU Night - Opening Reception
 7:00 pm - 10:00 pm

Saturday, November 4th, 2023

Farmers Forum (Breakfast & Working Luncheon)
 7:30 am - 3:00 pm

Harvest Ball Gala - Dinner
 Bring your dancing shoes for a dance after the Gala
 6:45 pm - 10:00 pm

Attire: Formal



Eloris Speight
Gala Breakfast Speaker
 Director of the Socially
 Disadvantaged Farmers and
 Ranchers (SDFR) Policy Research
 Center (Policy Center).



Courtney J. White
Gala Keynote Speaker
 BASF Head of Human
 Resources, Agricultural
 Solutions North America,
 Global Diversity, Equity,
 Inclusion



Dewayne Goldman
Gala Lunch Speaker
 USDA Senior Advisor
 for Racial Justice and
 Equity

Sunday, November 5th, 2023

Prayer Breakfast 9:00 am - 11:00 am



*Please scan the QR Code to register for the Harvest
 Ball. Hotel reservation link is available at the end of
 registration.*

RSVP by September 29th, 2023

For questions, please contact Ana Avila

Email: availaa@thetenniegroupp.com or office: 919-921-8204 or 919-217-0933

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UPCOMING EVENTS

NBGC'S 2023 MODEL FARM SERIES

Next Farm Tour Date: September 8th
Hosted By: Mahogany Farms, LLC
 Rowesville, SC

For more information, visit
<https://www.nationalblackgrowerscouncil.com>

2023 NBGC Model Farm Series



Date	Location	Host	Focus Group
May 19, 2023	Tanner, AL	Darden Bridgeforth & Sons	Crop protection in variety trials on Cotton, Corn & Soybeans
June 2, 2023	Byromville, GA	Jibb's Vineyard	Variety trials for Cotton, Corn & Wheat Harvest
July 20, 2023	Altheimer, AR	Haynie Farms	Rice, Corn, Soybean production, crop protection & irrigation practices
July 21, 2023	Bastrop, LA	J & A Farm Partnership LLP	Corn & Soybean production
August 11, 2023	Sledge, MS	CMB Farms LLC	Rice and Soybean production & irrigation practices
September 8, 2023	Rowesville, S.C.	Mahogany Farms LLC	Corn, Cotton, Soybean production & conservation practices

For more information go to:
<https://nationalblackgrowerscouncil.com/> or call (202) 641-4197
 Annual Meeting December 2023 – Information coming soon



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FARMER RESOURCES

NIFA Seeks 2023 Hall of Fame and Partnership Award Nominee. USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture has extended the deadline for nominations for its 2023 NIFA Partnership Award Category V —Program Improvement through Global Engagement. Visit the [Partnership website for complete details](#), instructions, and forms. Nominations for Category V **only** must be submitted by **September 15, 2023**, via email to performance@ars.usda.gov.

USDA's Risk Management Agency's Margin Protection Insurance Plan deadline is approaching. The Sales Closing Date to purchase Margin Protection coverage for 2024 crop year corn, soybeans, and wheat is **September 30, 2023**. Click [here](#) to learn more about the protection plan. A list of frequently asked questions regarding Margin Protection can also be found [here](#). Links provided in the farmer resource section of the newsletter provide maps and lists of the counties covered.

Inflation Reduction Act Assistance for Producers Who Experienced Discrimination in USDA Farm Loan Programs available. Section 22007 of the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) provides \$2.2 billion in financial assistance for farmers, ranchers, and forest landowners who experienced discrimination in USDA's farm lending programs prior to January 1, 2021. The application process is open from **July 7 – October 31, 2023**. Extensions will not be accepted. Applications for this program are **free**. The program **does not require a lawyer**, and **program staff are available to provide free help**. Visit www.22007apply.gov to find out more information regarding this program and locate available assistance in your area.

USDA is accepting applications for the Organic Certification Cost Share Program (OCCSP). The application deadline is **October 31, 2023**. OCCSP provides cost-share assistance to producers and handlers of agricultural products who are obtaining or renewing their certification under the [National Organic Program \(NOP\)](#). To learn more about this program and how to apply, click [here](#).

County Committee Elections Updates. Ballots for this year's election will be mailed to eligible voters on **November 6, 2023**. Contact your local Farm Service Agency (FSA) to verify your eligibility to ensure your ballot is received on time. For more information on the election, election timeline, and frequently asked questions, click [here](#).

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USDA's Food Safety Certification for Specialty Crops Program (FSCSC) is accepting applications. This program assists specialty crop operations that incur eligible on-farm food safety program expenses related to obtaining or renewing a food safety certification in calendar years 2022 and 2023. The deadline to apply for FSCSC assistance for calendar year 2023 is **January 31, 2024**. If you think you qualify for this program and want to learn more, click [here](#) to learn about eligibility.

Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP): NAP provides financial assistance to producers of non-insurable crops when low yields, loss of inventory, or prevented planting occur due to natural disasters. Visit this [link](#) for more details.

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. Link to current and archived reports can be found [here](#).

Please note that September's monthly report will be released on September 12, 2023.

USDA Supply and Demand 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, meat, poultry, eggs, milk, and dairy products; as well as Mexico's supply and use of sugar. The WAOB chairs the Interagency Commodity Estimates Committees (ICECs), which include analysts from key USDA agencies who compile and interpret information from USDA and other domestic and foreign sources to produce the report. Link to current and archived reports can be found [here](#).

Secretary of Agriculture Briefings on the World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates (WASDE) report and the Crop Production report can be viewed live each month starting at 12:05 pm ET, following the release of the WASDE report, on [NASS's YouTube channel](#).

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FARMER RESOURCES

USDA's Risk Management Agency's Margin Protection Insurance Plan Publications: Margin Protection Insurance has been expanded for corn and soybean producers in more than a thousand additional counties. Use the links below to see which counties were included in the expansion.

[Margin Protection Plan Map - Corn](#)

[Margin Protection Plan County List - Corn](#)

[Margin Protection Plan Map - Soybean](#)

[Margin Protection Plan County List - Soybean](#)

[Margin Protection Plan Map – Corn, Rice, Soybeans, and Wheat](#)

[Margin Protection Plan County List – Corn, Rice, Soybeans, and Wheat](#)

The Tennie Agricultural Group, LLC: Offers agricultural, payroll, and corporate structure with the commitment to providing clients with information and resources that will help them build a sound future. Various agribusiness insurance policies are also available. Visit www.tennieagriculturegroup.com and www.agribusinesscropinsurance.com to learn more.

Funding Opportunity

USDA Small Business Innovation Research and Small Business Technology Transfer Programs (SBIR/STTR) Phase I: This program supports small businesses in the creation of innovative, disruptive technologies and enables the application of research advancements from conception into the market. The deadline to apply for this opportunity is **September 19, 2023**. Click [here](#) for more information and to apply.

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FARMER RESOURCES

Employment Opportunities:

Freedmen Heirs Foundation

Freedmen Heirs Foundation is searching for a highly motivated Outreach Coordinator and Farmer Liaison (2) to expand our reach and strengthen relationships with farmers, producers, and ranchers within the community. If you enjoy making new connections and have an extensive agricultural background, please visit www.freedmenheirs.org/careers for full job descriptions and application information.

The Soil Health Institute Internship Program

The Soil Health Institute will begin accepting applications for its 2024 internship program on **October 1, 2023**. The program is designed for students interested in soil health, regenerative agriculture, agricultural economics, and technology. Click [here](#) for more information on this program and to apply.



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Your support is greatly appreciated!

If you would like to be featured in an issue of The Minority AgVocate™, please [complete this form](#)

OR

send us an email at info@freedmenheirs.org.

We would love to connect with you!

**NOMINATE AN
AGRIPRENEUR**

**If you know someone
deserving of recognition,
nominate them to be
featured by [completing
this form](#).**

VISIT US ONLINE AT:

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@freedmenheirsfoundation

