

How Farming Changes

Locally Adapted Economies of Food Cultivation

We can meet the demands of climate with a farming system designed to work in partnership with Nature. To do this we need to increase the number of small-scale local farmers in every landscape and provide effective economic infrastructure to ensure their success.

Success requires significant and sustained investment to transform local economies. We must utterly reject the idea that simply offering grants that small-scale farmers must compete over will ever be enough to change anything.

Regenerative Farmers

For farmers currently engaging in organic, regenerative agriculture, subsidies would support their operations to develop and maintain:



- Research: on-site research system for capturing local ecological knowledge
- Seed and plant exchange (local and regional)
- Soil, water and pollinator economy-augmentation, restoration, landscaping
- Aquifer restoration
- Ecosystem design planning for diversification
- Farm habitat-adequate facilities for personnel, staff, storage, production
- Leadership training and network facilitation
- 365 Local Food-year-round system for producing food including greenhouses, storage facilities, etc.
- Crop insurance for diversified farming operations
- Affordable healthcare and dental care provided by a single payer system to maximize benefits and minimize costs and waste

We Need Thousands of Successful Small-Scale Farms

To advance development of new small-scale, regenerative farms to provide sources of locally grown food for urban and rural communities, the bill provides subsidies for:

- Land access
- Training and mentor programs for regenerative farming
- Equipment and facilities
- All of the items outlined for current farmers (see list above)



Farmers Producing Commodity Crops



This set of farmers will be provided with a public subsidy to participate in a transition plan linking local climate readiness goals to landscape rehabilitation, carbon sequestration and economic dependence on regenerative systems.

The HEAL the EARTH to COOL the PLANET campaign eliminates subsidies for industrial- scale crops and directs that public resource to restore the health and diversity of landscapes and water systems.

Under this initiative, farmers receive a financial subsidy for:

- An annual income during time to let the land lie fallow to recover from chemical contamination (3-5 years)
- Transition planning options (land transfer, division or reorganization for regenerative farming)
- Participate in planning for landscape restoration-perennial landscapes
- Participate in training for regenerative, diversified farming
- Creation of new regenerative farming system in partnership with local community.

We need to keep in mind that in our current economy, farmers are paid to produce commodity crops for the industry. It is reasonable to conclude that they would not plant these crops without a subsidy and a market created to sell them.

To achieve our goals, farmers need to be compensated to participate in the regenerative economy

Our Neighbors in the Global South



Subsidies provided to expand the industrial food chain will be redirected to support the economic success of locally-adapted, small scale farming communities in the Global South.

This is significant departure from current agriculture policy that has promoted industrial agriculture and destabilized small-scale food producing communities resulting in forced migration, economic insecurity, loss of land and food and water scarcity.

Today, small-scale producers feed 70% of the world's people using less than 25% of agricultural lands and approximately 10% of agricultural use of fossil energy and 20% of water. It does this while protecting biodiversity and capturing carbon.

We need small-scale producers to be able to live and thrive in the places they call home and continue to play a significant role as food producers and the custodians of local habitats.

Farming (and fishing and pastoralist) communities will be offered the same economic tools provided to farmers in the United States. (See the list above outlining supports for farmers.)

In a global food economy shaped by the Industrial Food Chain, small-scale producers are marginalized. These are the reforms needed to empower the 2 billion small-scale producers who feed 70% of the world's people:

- Restore right to freely save, plant, exchange, sell and breed seeds and livestock
- Agrarian reform-right to land, water, forests, fishing, foraging, hunting
- Remove regulations to block local markets and diversity
- Direct public money for research
- Establish fair wages, working conditions
- Fair trade determined by peasant-led policies

Organizations That Support Regenerative Economies

Across the country, a variety of organizations have emerged in rural and urban landscapes to support organically produced food and small-scale farmers, urban farming and gardening.

Public investment from the Community Food & Water and Farm Bill would help these organizations to continue their work including the vital work of community organizing.

