



**Farm Bill Virtual Round Table
Monday, May 22, 6:00 pm**

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/92683905959?pwd=MmNjM2hOT2VWnmRtMzNZV2dvZ2M4UT09>

Meeting ID: 926 8390 5959

Passcode: 967919

Participants:

Round Table Host: **Patty Allen**, BIPOC Farming Network Program Manager

Discussion Moderator: **Celeste Treece**, Political Strategist and Founder of CommEN Strategies, and Ag Noire

Panelist: **Wes King**, legislative assistant to U.S. Senator Sherrod Brown

Panelist: **Jonathan McCracken**, State Director for Ohio, USDA

Patty: Opening and Introductions: 6:00-6:10 pm

- open the meeting and welcome BFN members and other guests.
- Upcoming BFN activities: the next Roundtable in July.
- Application submissions for the BFN Policy Fellowship will begin July 15.
- Black Farming Conference update September 29-30
- Provide format for roundtable discussion: Celeste will open with an overview of the farm bill and then present questions to Wes and Jon
- introduce Celeste Treece, who will give a longer biographical information about Wes and Jon.

Celeste: Overview and present discussion topics and questions to Wes & Jon (6:10-6:50 pm)

Why is the farm bill important for urban, small and beginning farmers?

- Basic description of the bill.
- Historical context and background on the 2018 Farm Bill

Introduction of the Speakers

Wes King, legislative assistant to U.S. Senator Sherrod Brown (bio forthcoming)

Jonathan McCracken, State Director for Ohio, USDA (bio forthcoming)

Questions/topics for Wes:

Will you please start off by providing us with a status on where the Farm Bill is in the legislative process?

How will the bill improve land and capital access for urban and small-scale farmers?

How will the bill provide crop insurance that specifically meets the needs of small and urban farmers?

What are the things that our community can do to support the passage of the Farm Bill?

Questions/topics for Jon:

What does the farm bill mean for your agency and what USDA programs fall under this bill?

What will this bill mean for the Office of Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production and UAIP grants?

Can you please talk about Rural Development and what projects fall under that umbrella and how to access those programs?

Questions/topics for both Wes & Jon:

Why is the Farm Bill so important for small scale and urban farmers?

Please explain how agricultural research is covered by the Farm Bill and discuss the importance of research, especially for urban farmers?

Please explain how SNAP benefits are covered under the Farm Bill?

Please discuss what impact the Farm Bill will have on Title 5 (Credit/direct government loans to farmers/ranchers and guarantees on private lenders' loans)?

How will the bill improve land and capital access for urban and small-scale farmers?

Farmers Market and Local Food Promotion Program

6:55-7:30 Open Discussion for Q&As moderated by Patty (managing order for incoming questions/technical/unmuting participants) and Celeste

GOODBYE AT 7:30 ON THE DOT