



STATE INNOVATION EXCHANGE AGRICULTURE & FOOD SYSTEMS

Farmer Equity State Policy Trends and Examples

Updated February 2025

NOTE: This list is representative of Justice for Black Farmers and farmer equity policies that were introduced at the state level from 2020 to early 2025 session. It may not be comprehensive. Where bills were signed into law, it is notated in green. If you have a bill that you would like to add to this list or if you have any questions please reach out to the SiX Ag team: kenneth@stateinnovation.org

Justice for Black Farmers

- 2025: [Illinois HB 3067: Small Farm Restoration Program](#)
 - Sponsored by CROP Member: IL Rep. Sonya Harper
- 2023: [South Carolina HB 3540: Black Farmer Restoration Program](#)
- 2021: [North Carolina SB 694: Black Farmer Restoration Program](#)
 - Sponsored by CROP Member: NC Sen. Natalie Murdock
- 2021: [Illinois HB 3501: Black Farmer Restoration Act](#)
 - Sponsored by CROP Member: IL Rep. Sonya Harper
- 2021: [Georgia HB 976: Black Farmer Restoration Office](#)
 - Sponsored by CROP Member: GA Rep. Kim Schofield
- 2021: [Vermont HB 273: Social Equity and Land Access](#)

Funding:

- 2023: [Illinois HB 2557: Farmer Equity Innovation Act](#) (bill establishes the Farmer Equity and Innovation Center at the University of Illinois Extension to ensure the continued economic viability of small-scale and moderate-scale diversified farms and ranches.)
 - Sponsored by CROP Member: IL Rep. Sonya Harper
- 2023: [Minnesota HB 1057: Agriculture Down Payment Assistance Grants](#) (bill requires that half the funds go to “emerging farmers” including Black farmers)
 - Sponsored by CROP Members: MN Reps. Samantha Vang and Kristi Pursell
- 2021: [Illinois HB 3089: Amends the Local Food, Farms, Job Act](#)
 - Sponsored by CROP Member: IL Rep. Sonya Harper
- 2021: [Illinois HB 3229: Agriculture Money for Disadvantaged Farmer](#)
 - Sponsored by CROP Member: IL Rep. Sonya Harper

Commissions and Studies:

- 2021: [Hawaii SB 1416: Relating to Farmer Equity](#)
- 2021: [Hawaii HR 50 - 2021: Relating to Farmer Equity](#)
- 2021: [Mississippi HB 784: Farmer Equity Act of 2021](#)
- 2021: [Maine LD 870: Permanent Commission on the Status of Racial, Indigenous and Maine Tribal Populations To Study the Impact of Policies Regarding Agriculture](#) - ENROLLED
- 2021: [Massachusetts H 860: AN ACT promoting Equity in Agriculture](#)
 - Sponsored by CROP Member: MA Rep. Natalie Blais
- 2021: [Illinois HR 46: Black Farmers- Illinois](#)

Narrative and Communications:

- [2024: Illinois HR 625: Creating a Black Farmer Appreciation Week](#) - ENROLLED
 - *Sponsored by CROP Member: IL Rep. Sonya Harper*

Heirs' Property

Twenty states have enacted a law, called the [Uniform Partition of Heirs Property Act](#), that helps to protect heirs' property owners from a forced sale. The District of Columbia and the US Virgin Islands have also just enacted heirs' property and three other states have introduced an heirs' property bill. At the federal level, USDA provided \$67 million in 2022 for owners of heirs' property, which can be used to clear their titles by buying out other heirs' shares of the land, or for legal, appraisal, and other fees associated with title reconciliation. For more information on the new USDA funding, [see here](#); for more on heirs property, see [this SiX blog post](#).

- 2024: [Michigan HB 4924: Partition of Heirs Property](#) - ENROLLED
 - *Sponsored by CROP member, MI Rep. Emily Dievendorf*
- 2023: [Illinois HJR 6: Heirs Property Study Task Force](#) - ADOPTED
 - *Sponsored by CROP Member: IL Rep. Sonya Harper*
- 2023: [South Carolina SB 436: Heirs Property Commission](#): *(Establishes a commission to address the legal and economic issues associated with heirs' property.)*
- 2021: [Kentucky SB 43: AN ACT relating to heir property and making an appropriation therefore.](#)
- 2021: [Louisiana HR 201](#) - ENROLLED