

BLACK FARMERS & AGRICULTURALISTS ASSOCIATION

&

THE LAND LOSS FUND

P.O. Box 61

Tillery, NC 27887



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www.bfaa-us.org

September 6, 2010

Save the Land: Black Farmers Benefit and Rally

Save the Land: Black Farmers Benefit and Rally is being held to practice and plan for a larger event in roughly one year. The event plans to bring awareness to the plight of the continued decline of Black farmers and Black land ownership, the deterioration of Black land worth, and heirs being deprived of their inheritance via government policies, heir property laws, and other egregious means.

Save the Land: Black Farmers Benefit and Rally will take place from 11 am to 5 pm on Saturday October 22-23, 2010 in the historic North Carolina New Deal community of Tillery Resettlement Farms. The event will take place on Unit 46, a family farm has been owned by the family since the 1940s.

For those arriving early, Friday evening will feature the showing of two documentary films: *Alaska Far Away: The New Deal Pioneers of the Matanuska Colony* produced by Paul Hill and Joan Juster; and *We Shall Not Be Moved: The History of the Tillery Resettlement Farm* produced by the Concerned Citizens of Tillery (CCT).

Saturday will be a celebration of the land through a sharing of music, cultural arts, and food. The event spotlights various forms of Southern music, gospel, social justice songs, and other musical and spoken word forms. Art, food, farming, and other types of related vendors are invited to participate.

The Need - In all the years of struggle to save Black owned land and farmers, there has not been a real REVOLVING LOAN FUND for Black farmers since the crushing of the Land Assistance Fund in the 1970s fielded by the Federation of Southern Cooperatives, and the Land Loss Fund in the 1980s established by the Concerned Citizens of Tillery. This event will rejuvenate the Land Loss Fund as the CCT/BFAA Land Loss Fund, a national fund for assistance. Such a fund will be there for the hard and trying times to:

- **Retention:** Help farmers get crops in fields on time, weather financial stress, and avoid tax delinquency.
- **Acquisition:** Purchase land that is threatened until the family can repurchase, provide small loans to assist new farmers who want to enter agriculture, and link sellers and buyers.
- **Advocate:** Work with other groups to advocate for Black farmers and agricultural policies that benefit family farms and nutritional food.
- **Educate:** Continue education on the significance of Black land and agriculture for the well being of all.

NOW IS YOUR TIME – Over the last fourteen years, many of you have called the BFAA office asking how you can help. Well, now is your time. We need:

- Farmers to tell your stories;
- Performing artists who will donate their talent to this venture (limited to 10 acts);

- Public relations people who know how to promote an event such as this and are able to donate their time;
- Supporters to purchase an ad in the Prelude to the 1st Black FarmAide Action Souvenir Book;
- Socially responsible companies that support family farms to sponsor “THE TENT”, “THE STAGE”, “THE SOUND SYSTEM” and more;
- Those with technical skills for such an event to donate their time and become a part of the BFAA Planning Committee to help defray costs and relieve an already overworked too-small of a group;
- and FINALLY, we need you to make a tax deductible donation to the CCT/BFAA Land Loss Fund.

And as you well know, there are many other ways to volunteer to assist with this event. Just contact the BFAA office at bfaausnow@aol.com or tillery@aol.com. Visit the BFAA web site, www.bfaa-us.org, for more information. WE ARE LOOKING FOR YOU TO FULFILL YOUR OFFER TO HELP!!!

Yours for the survival of the Black farmer,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "GR Grant", is centered on a light-colored rectangular background.

Gary R. Grant, President

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July 13, 2010

Black Farmer Facts

- In North Carolina, there has been a 70% loss of farms and a decline of 67% Black land ownership, nearly 300,000 acres or \$1.2 billion dollars of lost assets to the African American community covering the years of the Pigford Class Action, 1981-1996.
- Between 1920 and 1992 the number of Black farmers in the U.S. declined from 925,710 to 18,816 – or 98%
- In 1910, African-Americans owned 15.6 million acres of farm land
- In 1982, African-Americans owned 3.1 million acres of farm land.
- Between 1984 – 1985, the USDA lent over \$1.3 billion to 16,000 farmers to buy land. Only 209 of those farmers were African American
- In 1981, 48% of all Black-operated farms were 50 acres or less
- In 1981, only 4% of Black farmers were under the age of 35
- Overall, from 1920 through 1999, there has been a 98% decline in Black farmers nation wide—from almost one million to just around 18,000

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YOUR SUPPORT OF BLACK FARMERS IS GREATLY APPRECIATED!

BFAA is looking for **MUSICAL GROUPS OF ALL GENRES**, up to ten groups will be featured on Saturday, October 22, 2010 from 11:00am until 5:00pm in an open-air setting on a farm in the historic New Deal Resettlement Farm Community of Tillery, NC. BFAA is requesting that these groups donate their talent or at least perform for a much lower rate than normal, in this worthwhile cause to establishing the BFAA/Land Loss Fund. This Fund will be a revolving loan fund to save Black-owned land, keep Black farmers who wish to stay on the land in operations, and re-introduce young people to the joys and livelihood of raising food and making a living off the land.

BFAA is seeking **VENDORS** and **CRAFT CREATORS** of all kinds to have your wares available to the public on this occasion. There is a fee for the limited number of booth spaces. Each space is roughly 10 x 10.

If you are interested in participating in this momentous occasion, please complete the "PRELIMINARY APPLICATION" and return to BFAA by mail, fax, or email. If you have questions, please call (252) 826-2800 or e-mail tillery@aol.com.

Stage Set-Up and Performer Amenities

The stage set-up will be minimalist with mikes, amps, and direct inputs. Performers will be provided with vouchers for food and drink in an entertainers tent area. Also, performers will be provided a free night of lodging at Whitakers at the Bricks, NC. A sound expert will be on-site.