

FARMER EQUITY ACT FAST FACTS



WHAT IS THE FARMER EQUITY ACT (FEA) OF 2017?

- A California law that opens a platform for reform surrounding farmer equity.
- Holds the CA Dept. of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) accountable for serving the needs of farmers of color.
- Will make access to grants, resources, decision-making power, etc, more accessible to under-served farmers and ranchers of color.

UNDER-SERVED FARMERS & RANCHERS OF COLOR

The FEA of 2017 defines “socially disadvantaged group” as a group whose members have been **subjected to racial, ethnic, or gender prejudice** because of their identity as members of a group without regard to their individual qualities. These groups include:
African Americans, Native Indians, Alaskan Natives, Hispanics, Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders.

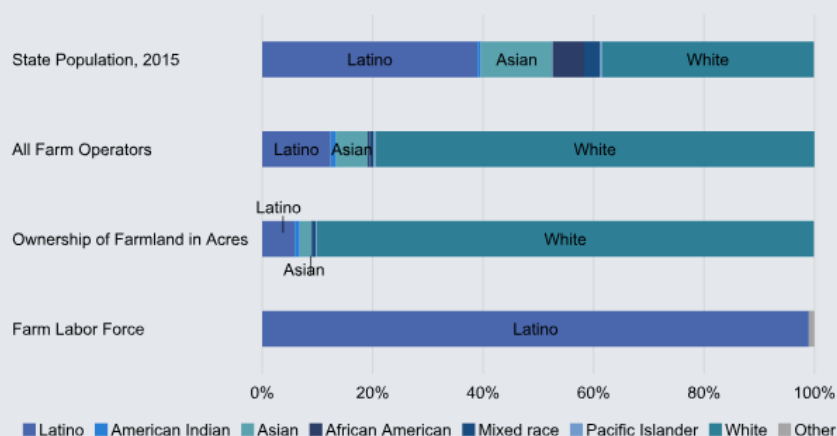
The California Farmer Justice Collaborative is developing a proposal for CDFA on **implementation of the Farmer Equity Act** that includes:

- Allocating more CDFA grants to farmers and ranchers of color and providing support for grant application processes
- Increasing diversity on CDFA boards and commissions
- Providing a basic overview of CDFA for transparent public awareness (i.e. departments, leadership, and structure)
- Revising communication strategies between CDFA and farmers and ranchers of color
- Coordinating between federal, state and local government bodies to identify opportunities to support farmers and ranchers of color

Key Players in the FEA

- The California Farmer Justice Collaborative (CFJC)
- Assemblywoman Cecilia Aguiar-Curry (D-Winters)
- Assemblywoman Anna M. Caballero (D-Salinas)
- Assemblywoman Susan Talamantes-Eggman (D-Stockton)
- Assemblywoman Monique Limón (D-Santa Barbara).

California Racial Demographics



Source: 2012 Census of Agriculture, California Budget 2015-2016 Demographic Information, 2015 National Agricultural Workers Survey

"Farmers of color in California—and across the country—own less land, make less money and receive less government support than their white counterparts....In 2015, people of color made up 62% of the state’s population, far surpassing the proportion of farmers of color in the state [9]. If we compare the 21% of farm operators to the 99% of farm laborers that are people of color, this distinction is even more concerning [10]."

-Beth Spitler, Golden School of Public Policy, UC Berkeley



CA FARMER JUSTICE COLLABORATIVE



CA FARMER JUSTICE COLLABORATIVE (CFJC)

CFJC's mission is to ensure that under-served farmers and ranchers of color are empowered to directly participate and effectively lead in building a fair food and farming system in CA.

We operate under principles of farmer leadership, democratic participation, and relationship based advocacy.



(L to R): Mariela Cedeño, Nathan Weller, Neil Thapar, Mai Nguyen, Chanowk Yisrael, Margaret Reeves, Beth Smoker, Janaki Jagannath, Paul Towers, Patricia Carrillo, Sarah Aird

What is the CFJC doing? How can you join in?

- Invites you to community and solidarity with a powerful network of farmers of color and allies
- Unites you with a collective that holds a shared vision of a fair food system, which aims to dismantle racism and other injustices in the food system
- Empowers you to have more voice in the food and farming policies that affect you, your work, and your communities

Join the California Farmer Justice Collaborative! Farmers of color and farmer allies are welcomed

- **Reach out-** to one of the CA regional coordinators listed below to stay connected with more info
- **Share your story-** your farmer input about your successes and challenges will support farm policy change here in California.
- **Start a CFJC chapter-** organize farmers in your county/region with tools from a regional coordinator listed below

CFJC REGIONAL COORDINATORS

San Diego

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★ = Counties that CFJC members represent