



Farm Co-op NC

Proposal to President Donald J. Trump

\$100 Million Initiative to Establish Sustainable Farm Cooperatives on Federal Land in North Carolina

Date: February 5, 2025

The Lord will mediate between nations and will settle international disputes. They will hammer their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will no longer fight against nation, nor train for war anymore. [Isaiah 2:4]



Executive Summary

This proposal seeks \$100 million in federal funding to establish a network of **regenerative, organic farming cooperatives** on underutilized government land in North Carolina. The initiative prioritizes sustainable agriculture, rural economic revitalization, and national food security while offering **inclusive opportunities** for veterans, transitioning military personnel, and young Americans seeking careers in farming. By integrating USDA-certified organic practices and leveraging federal land partnerships, this program will empower participants to build resilient communities, restore soil health, and reduce America's reliance on foreign food imports.

A SkillBridge Outreach Program will prioritize military personnel transitioning to civilian life, while cooperatives remain open to all qualified applicants. Participants will earn equity stakes through a **graduated ownership model**, ensuring long-term stewardship of the land and generational wealth creation.

Key Objectives



Regenerative Agriculture & Sustainability

- ✓ Convert 50,000+ acres of federal land into USDA Organic-certified farms using new technologies, cover cropping, and carbon-sequestration practices.
- ✓ Restore soil health in disaster-affected regions (e.g., hurricane-damaged western NC).



Inclusive Workforce Development

- ✓ Train 1,500+ participants (veterans, youth, and career-changers) in regenerative farming, agroforestry, and cooperative management.
- ✓ Partner with the Department of Defense's SkillBridge Program to recruit transitioning service members.



Economic Resilience

- ✓ Stabilize rural economies through cooperatives that pool resources (equipment, markets, USDA grants) and reduce costs for small farmers.



Food Security & Export Growth

- ✓ Boost domestic production of organic staples (e.g., soybeans, sweet potatoes) and premium exports (e.g., organic poultry, organic pork).



Land Stewardship & Ownership

- ✓ Transfer federal land to co-ops after 10 years of regenerative use, ensuring permanent agricultural productivity.

Alignment with Administration Priorities

1. America First Food Security

Reduce reliance on foreign organic imports (e.g., 70% of U.S. organic corn is imported).

2. Rural Job Creation

Combat the aging farmer crisis (average U.S. farmer age: 57) by recruiting youth and veterans.

3. Deregulation

Streamline USDA Organic certification and federal land leases for co-ops.

4. Veteran Support

Expand the SkillBridge Program's success (50,000+ participants in 2023) into agriculture.

Implementation Plan



1. America First Food Security

- ✓ Partner with USDA to identify degraded or underused federal land in NC, prioritizing flood-prone and hurricane-impacted areas.
- ✓ Allocate \$20 million for soil restoration using biochar, compost, and rotational grazing.



2. SkillBridge Outreach & Training

- ✓ Dedicate \$25 million to a Military-to-Farm Pipeline, including:
 - 6-month apprenticeships on co-op farms for transitioning soldiers.
 - Partnerships with Fort Bragg and Camp Lejeune for recruitment.
- ✓ Offer free training in organic practices to all participants via NC State Agricultural Extension.



3. Cooperative Structure

- ✓ Establish 10 member-owned co-ops with bylaws requiring regenerative practices and USDA Organic certification.
- ✓ Adopt a tiered equity model: Participants earn ownership shares annually through labor and meeting sustainability benchmarks.



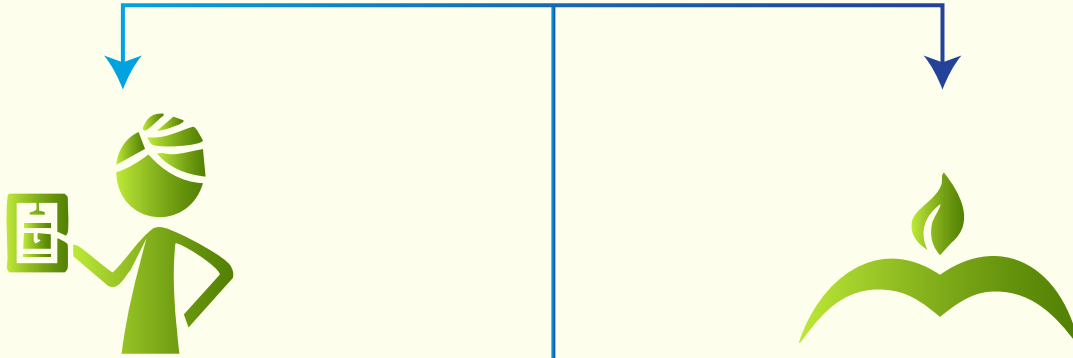
4. Market Development

- ✓ Secure contracts with federal programs (e.g., school lunches, military bases) and private retailers (e.g., Whole Foods, Thrive Market).
- ✓ Leverage USDA's Organic Market Development Grant Program to fund export infrastructure.

Ownership & Repayment Model

Stewardship Equity Program (STEP)

Federal grants will function as forgivable loans, repaid through co-op profits to fund future projects.



1. Equity Earned Through Labor

- ✓ Participants earn 10% annual ownership in their co-op for 5 years (capped at 50%).
- ✓ Bonus shares for achieving soil health targets (e.g., 1% carbon increase per acre).

2. Land Transfer

- ✓ Federal land leased at \$1/acre for 10 years; full ownership transfers after meeting regenerative benchmarks.
- ✓ Co-ops forfeit land if sold for non-agricultural use.

3. Revenue Sharing

- ✓ Co-ops repay 20% of federal funding via 5% of annual profits over 15 years.
- ✓ Funds reinvested into new co-ops in Appalachia and the Midwest.

Budget Breakdown

Category	Allocation	Justification
Soil Rehabilitation	\$20 million	Biochar, compost, erosion control
Training & Outreach	\$25 million	SkillBridge partnerships, organic certification
Equipment & Technology	\$25 million	Solar-powered irrigation, no-till machinery
Marketing & Export	\$15 million	Organic certification, trade compliance
Administrative Costs	\$10 million	USDA coordination, legal frameworks
Revolving Loan Fund	\$5 million	Seed capital for future co-ops

Expected Outcomes

Year 1



500 participants trained;
10,000 acres under
regenerative management.

Year 2



\$150 million annual
revenue from organic sales;
50% loan repayment.

Year 3



Full land ownership for
co-ops; expansion to 3
additional states.



Conclusion

This initiative merges conservative principles of **self-reliance**, **land stewardship**, and **veteran inclusion** with cutting-edge regenerative agriculture. By transforming underproductive federal land into hubs of organic food production, we empower a new generation of farmers, reduce dependency on foreign imports, and honor military service through dignified, skilled careers. We urge your administration to endorse this proposal as part of the 2025 Farm Bill or a standalone *American Regeneration Act*.

Respectfully submitted,

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American Regeneration Farm Co-op

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Attachments:

1. NC Federal Land Maps for Regenerative Use
2. SkillBridge Partnership Framework
3. Projected Carbon Sequestration Metrics

Sources: USDA Organic Reports, DOD SkillBridge Data, NC State Agricultural Extension.