

**9th National Black Land Loss Summit
“Returning Black Farmers to the Land:
A Gathering of Minds to Develop a New
Strategy”**

**February 16-18, 2007
The Historic Communities of
New Deal Tillery Resettlement Community
and
Historic Franklinton Center at Bricks
Tillery and Whitakers, North Carolina
(Outline of Our Tentative Program)**

WHY A SUMMIT?

In the United States, African Americans have been losing land at a rate of 9,000 acres per week. Between 1982 and 1992 alone, the number of Black operated farms nationwide fell over 43%, while many southern states saw a decline of over 50%. Additionally, many rural southern communities have endured environmental degradation, health risks and loss of economic vitality as part of a nationwide trend of environmental racism.

DISCRIMINATION and the USDA

The *Pigford v. Glickman Consent Decree* has failed miserably and the struggle for survival has become more crucial. As of July 9, 2003: 21,982 claims accepted as Track A; rulings made in 21,590 cases; only 12,831 have actually received payment. A mere 182 Track B claims have been accepted -- there is currently no posting for rulings and payments (USDA web site – March 1, 2004 on Track B Claims). Four years have passed since the Consent Decree was declared “a fair, adequate and reasonable settlement of the claims brought in the case”, and yet so little progress has been made. `

PROPOSED AGENDA

Friday, February 16th

2-4:00pm

**Open Registration at Tillery Community Center,
Tillery, NC
BFAA Board Meeting – Brain Storming for Success**

5:00pm Dinner – The Resettlement Café

**6 – 7:15pm Fundraising to Support the
Black Farmer Movement
Stan Ashmore, Greenville, SC**

**7:30 – Return to Franklinton Center at
Bricks**

Saturday 16

7:30 – 8:45am Breakfast

Open Registration

Spiritual Opening

**9:00am – Welcome and History of the Struggle
Gary R. Grant & Others**

9:40 – 11:30 Morning Session

Developing Local Markets and Solutions

Dorothy Barker, Operation Spring Plant, Hickory
Farm, Oxford, North Carolina (confirmed);

Mike Callicrate, Ranch Foods Direct, CO
(confirmed);

Archie Hart, North Carolina, Special Assistant to
State Agricultural Commissioner (confirmed);

Kenya Borders, investment banker, Charlotte,
North Carolina (Invited)

11:30 – 1:00 Awards Luncheon

Former Congresswoman Eva Clayton

**1:45-3:15pm - Evaluating Old and
Developing New Strategy and Policy,
Incorporating Black Farmers into the Farm Bill**

How Effective Policy is Made:

Proposed Presentations by Representatives:
GK Butterfield (NC), Bennie Thompson
(MS),
Bob Etheridge (NC), Chair subcommittee,
Mike McIntyre, Chair subcommittee
(all invited)

3:15pm Break

**3:30 – 5:00pm -Catch Up For Black
Farmers in the 2007 Farm Bill**

Jerry Pennick, Federation of Southern
Cooperatives (confirmed)

Ralph Grossi and Gerry Cohen, Farmland
Trust (Invited)

Lloyd Wright, Former Director USDA
Office of Civil Rights (confirmed)

5:00 Break

5:30 – 6:30 – BFAA Annual Meeting

7:00pm Dinner

Farmers Speak Out - Open Mike for farmers to review the day
and raise issues of concern – 5mins each.

Sunday, February 18

8:00am Breakfast

**9:00 – 12 Noon - Plenary Session: Draft Black Farmers
Manifesto and Steps to Move Forward**

Issues to address: Environmental Injustice and the Loss of Black Owned Land and Communities – It is no mere coincidence that polluting industries locate in Black communities such as was done in Warren County, NC. Urban Renewal has really turned out to be “Urban Removal” which has destroyed viable Black business districts all across the South. This session will not only make you aware but teach you how to prevent the continuation of such trends and develop strategies to reclaim our inner-cities and the Black economic power base.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The 9th National Black Land Loss Summit theme is

**“Returning Black Farmers to the Land:
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Strategy”**

Our objectives for this year’s Summit are to:

- Stop and reverse African American agricultural land loss
- Increase the number of Black farm families in operation
- Assist more petitioners in the appeal process under the Consent Decree
- Increase awareness of the reparations issue
- Develop an inventory of what farm families produce
- Create a directory of all Black landowners in both rural and urban areas
- Influence or otherwise impact agriculture education at the secondary and collegiate levels
- Help farmers diversify for success
- Begin the healing of family and children

HOUSING ACCOMMODATIONS

Dormitory Housing at Franklinton Center
Included in Registration Fee

For those wishing private rooms – **There are hotels at
Exit 145 off I-95
GoldRock, NC**

(This is a short 8 mile drive from Franklinton Center)

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**“Returning Black Farmers to the Land:
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Tillery, North Carolina

252-826-2800

&

Franklinton Center at Bricks

281 Bricks Lane – Off Hwy 301

Whitakers, NC

252-437-1723

Sponsors:

The Concerned Citizens of Tillery, NC

The Land Loss Fund

The Land Loss Prevention Project, Durham, NC

The Conservation Fund, Chapel Hill, NC

We continue to look for sponsors.