The Farm Bill

Structural Racialization & Corporate Control in the US Food System

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The Landscape of the US Food System

- The Food System
- Structural Racialization
- Corporate Control
- The Farm Bill
Overview: 2014 US Farm Bill Spending by Program

- Conservation: $57.6 billion
- Crop Insurance: $89.83 billion
- Nutrition: $756.43 billion
- Commodity Programs: $44.46 billion
- Trade: $3.7 billion
- Miscellaneous: $2.3 billion
- Horticulture: $1.76 billion
- Research and Extension: $1.26 billion
- Energy: $1.12 billion
- Rural Development: $0.24 billion
- Forestry: $0.01 billion

Total over 10 years: $956.47 billion
US population supported by SNAP per month, 2014

46 million (1 person = 2 million)
Poverty is Racialized & Gendered

Poverty rates, 2012

- Whites: 9.7%
- Asians: 11.7%
- Latinos: 25.6%
- African Americans: 27.2%
- Married-couple families: 6.3%, 3.7 million
- National average poverty: 15.0%, 46.5 million
- Children under 18 yrs: 21.8%, 16.1 million
- Female-headed families: 30.9%, 4.8 million
Food Insecurity in the U.S.

Average Level of Food Insecurity in the U.S. Between 2011-2013 (USDA)

- Food Insecurity
  - Lowest Rates: 9.5% in VA
  - Highest Rates: 21.2% in AR
  - Other Rates: Various states with different percentages
Food Insecurity is Racialized & Gendered

Food Insecurity in Households, 2013

FPL - Federal Poverty Level

- Whites: 10.6%
- Latinos: 23.7%
- African Americans: 26.1%
- Very Low Food Security: 5.6%
- Income 185% above FPL: 6.7%
- Food Insecurity National Average: 14.3% (17.5 million)
- Income below FPL: 42.1%
Corporate Control in the Food System

Four corporations own and manufacture:

- 85% Soybean Processing Industry
- 82% Beef Packing Industry
- 63% Pork Packing Industry
- 50% Milk
- 50% Grocery Retail

Five corporations control:

- 2007
Opportunity is Racialized & Gendered

Corporate Directors of Fortune 500 Companies, 2010

- **Whites**
  - Share of population: 74.4%
  - Male directors: 5.3%
  - Female directors: 1.5%

- **African Americans**
  - Share of population: 13.3%
  - Male directors: 12.6%
  - Female directors: 0.7%

- **Latinos**
  - Share of population: 2.4%
  - Male directors: 16.3%
  - Female directors: 0.7%
Farmland (and its value) also Racialized

Private US agricultural land

Ownership

- Whites 98.0%
- Non-Whites 4.0%

Value

- Whites 97.0%, $1.16 Trillion
- Non-Whites 3.0%, $44 Billion
- Other non-Whites, $6.3 Billion
- American Indians, $5.3 Billion
- African Americans, $14 Billion

Acres

- Whites 98.0%, 856 Million Acres
- Non-Whites 2.0%, 25 Million Acres
- Other non-Whites, 0.8 Million Acres
- American Indians, 3.4 Million Acres
- Latinos, 13 Million Acres
- African Americans, 7.8 Million Acres
By 2017, biofuels production could significantly increase prices for oilseeds, wheat, coarse grains, and vegetable oil.
Short-term Strategy: Policy Interventions

- Organic/locally-grown
- Farmers Markets
- School gardens/Farm to School
- Food hubs & CSAs
- Urban Farms
Long-term Strategy: Building A Food Movement for Social Change
The US Farm Bill
Corporate Power Structural Racialization in the US Food System