

Uprooting Racism in the Food System

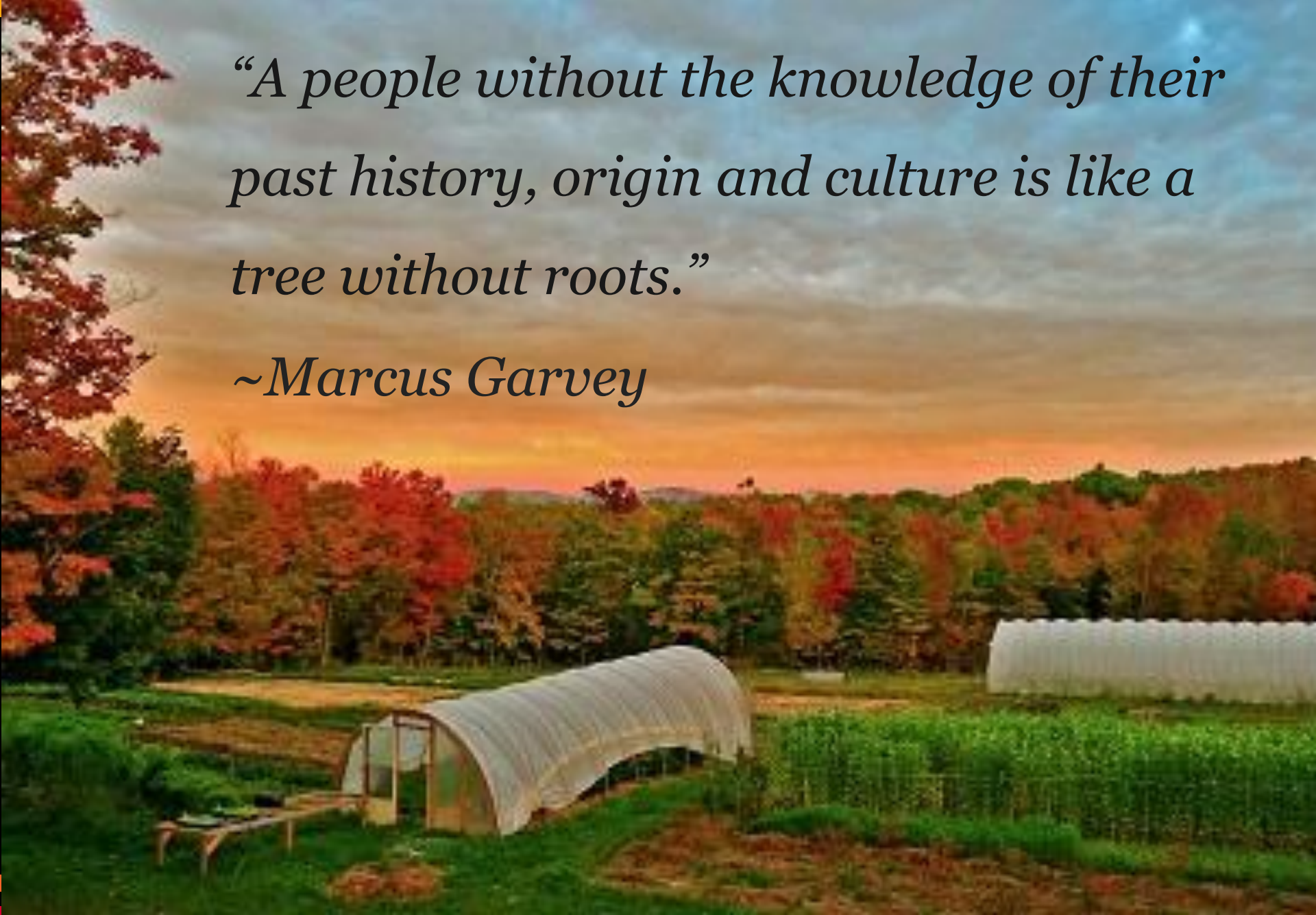
Soul Fire Farm, Grafton, NY



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“A people without the knowledge of their past history, origin and culture is like a tree without roots.”

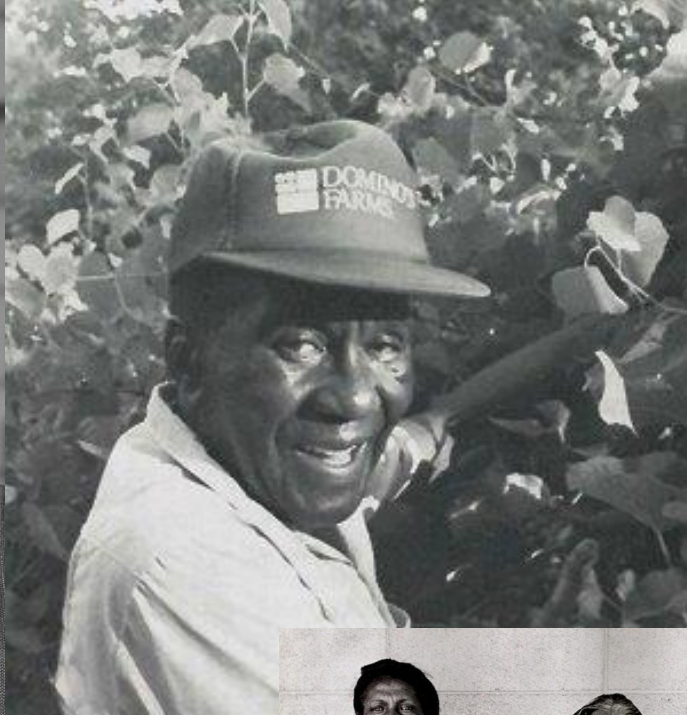
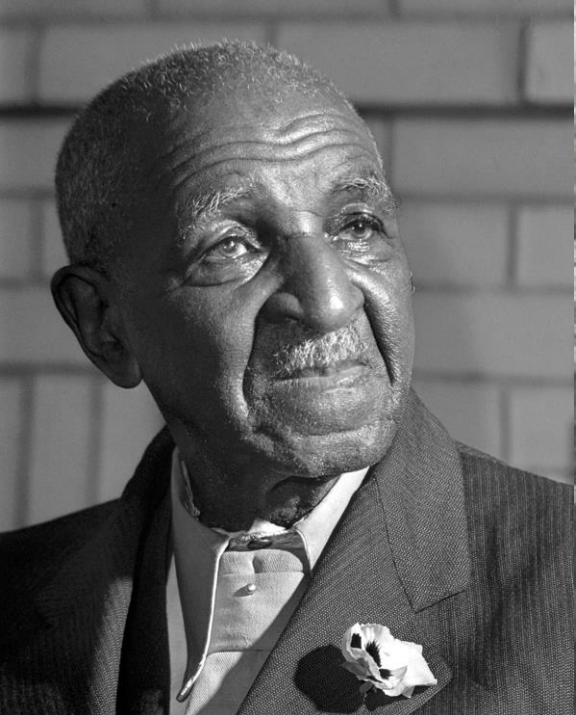
~Marcus Garvey



Krik? Krak? Thank You Ancestors



Our ancestral mothers hid rice grains and hope in their children's braids before boarding transatlantic slave ships. Their descendants defeated colonizers and established regenerative agriculture, cooperatives, and survival programs.

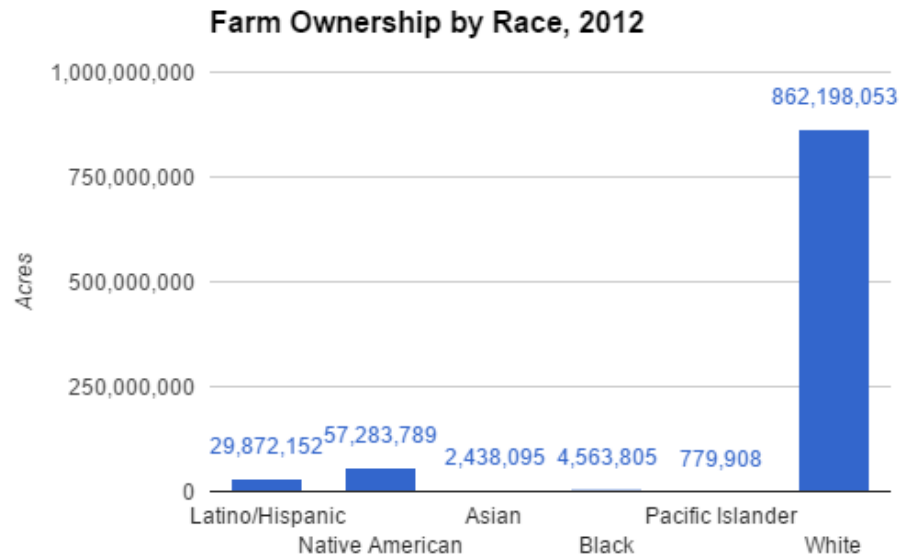


**Racism and injustice are built into
the DNA of the U.S. Food System.**

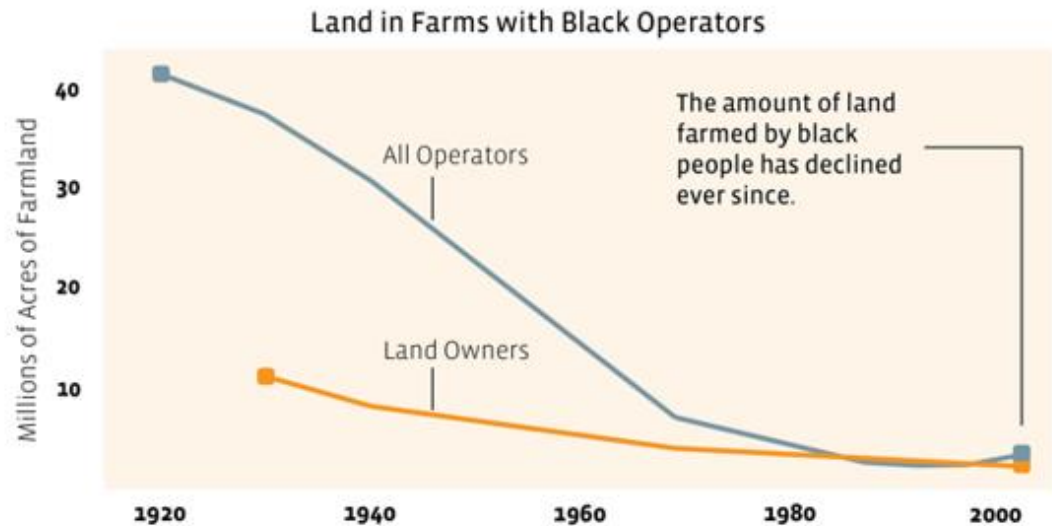


#1. The U.S.A. food system is built on stolen land.

The descendants of European colonizers control almost all of this land today.



The amount of farmland controlled by African Americans has consistently declined from a high point around the turn of the twentieth century.

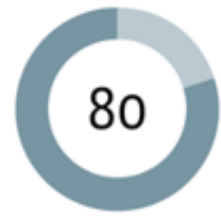


#2. The labor that built the U.S.A. food system was stolen from Black-Latinx people. Labor laws continue to permit exploitation of farm and food workers.



While those who run U.S. farms are overwhelmingly white, the roughly 3.5 million people who do the day-to-day work of growing and harvesting food are not.

Percentage of Farmworkers who Identify as Latino



Percentage of Farm Managers who Identify as Latino



Excluded from labor protections, about one-third of farmworkers live below the poverty line.

Farmworkers' Total Family Income Levels
National Agricultural Workers Survey 2013-2014



Mean U.S. Household Income: \$53,657

#3. We live under a system of food apartheid, where people of color are disproportionately impacted by food scarcity and diet-related illness.

American Adults 20 or Older Diagnosed with Diabetes, 2010-2012



USDA ERS / STATEOFOBESITY.ORG / CDC



Food Security in American Households, 2015

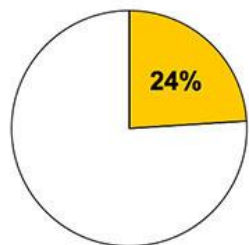
Experts define "low food security" as reduced quality or variety of food, but people still get enough to eat. "Very low food insecurity" includes disrupted eating patterns and prolonged hunger.



#4. Industrial agriculture is destroying the planet. Black-Indigenous regenerative farming methods are ignored or appropriated.

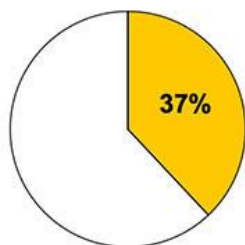
Agriculture's Share of Global Environmental Impact (2010)

GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS



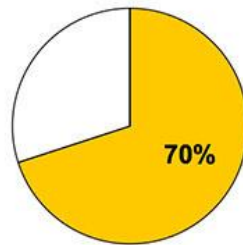
100% = 49 Gt CO₂e

EARTH'S LANDMASS (EX-ANTARCTICA)



100% = 13.3 bn ha

WATER WITHDRAWAL



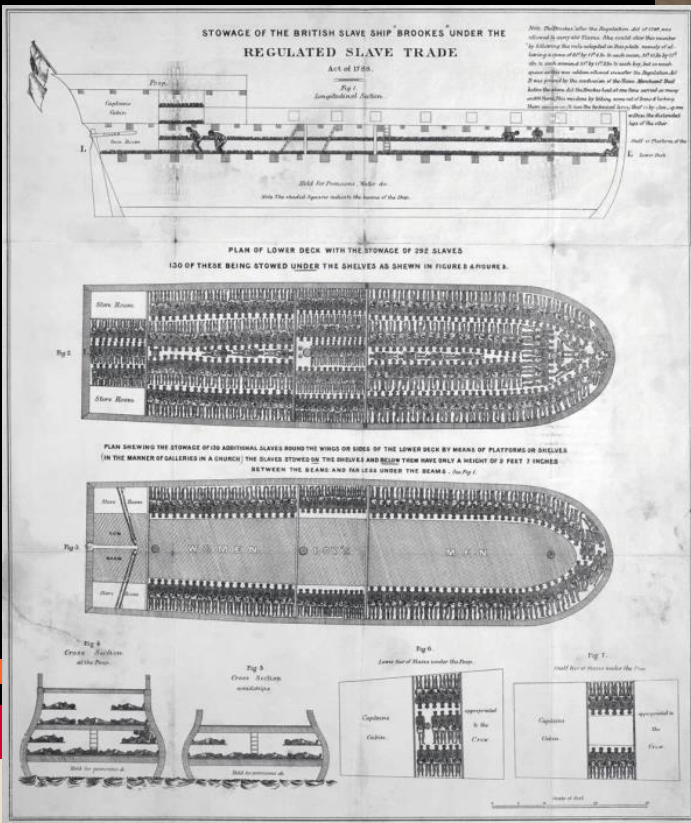
100% = 3862 km³ H₂O

 WORLD RESOURCES INSTITUTE

Sources: <http://ow.ly/rpfMN>



#5. Our people are often disconnected from land and its wisdom, bearing inherited trauma from land-based oppression.



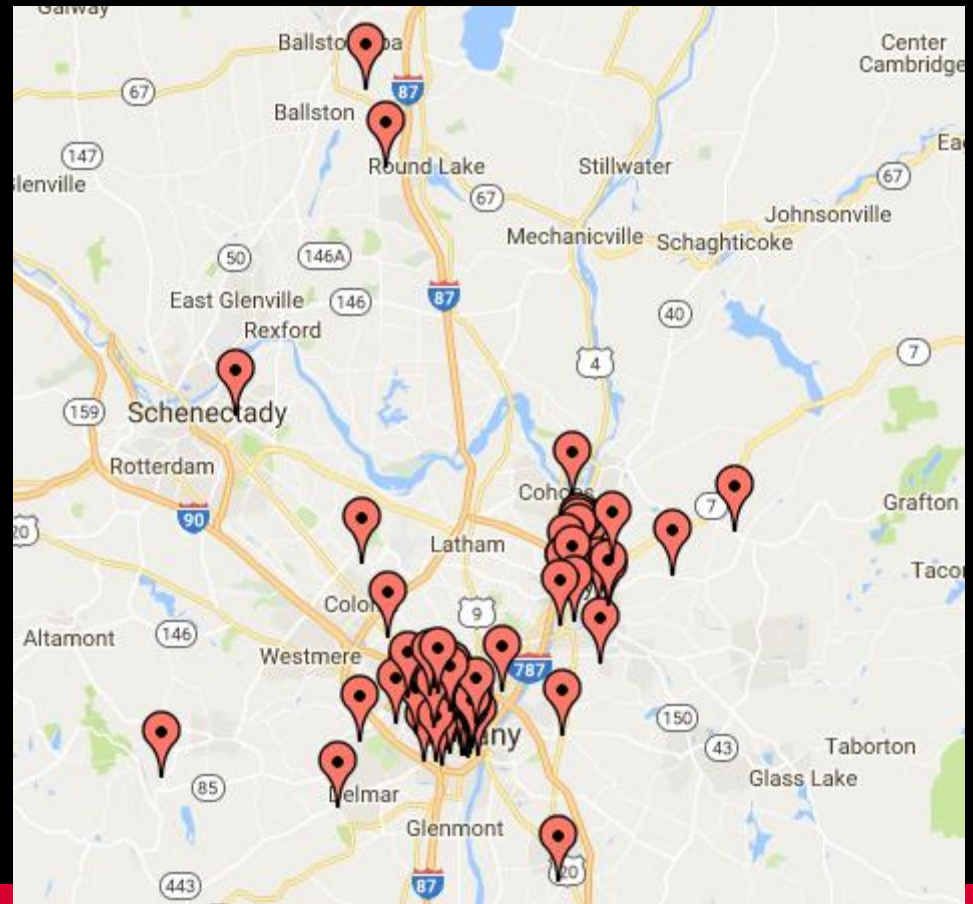
**We are not obligated to complete the task,
but neither are we free to desist from it.**



Mission

Soul Fire Farm is committed to ending racism and injustice in the food system. We raise life-giving food and act in solidarity with people marginalized by food apartheid. With deep reverence for the land and wisdom of our ancestors, we work to reclaim our collective right to belong to the earth and to have agency in the food system. We bring diverse communities together on this healing land to share skills on sustainable agriculture, natural building, spiritual activism, health and environmental justice. We are training the next generation of activist-farmers and strengthening the movements for food sovereignty and community self-determination.

Ujaama Farm Share



“Netflix for Veggies”



Individuals
Fed by the
Farm Weekly:

250

Average Food
Miles: **20**

Bushel boxes
of food
delivered to
the People:

7340

“I have loved the fresh food that I have been blessed to enjoy since joining the CSA. I have seen a complete change in my mood and general outlook. This I believe is tied to relieved stress from not having money for good produce and also the healthier feeling that comes with farm to table food.”

- 2017 Ujaama Farm Share CSA member



Regenerative Ancestral Farming



Fossil Fuel
Compared to
Industrial Ag: **8.9%**

Carbon Sequestered
lbs/year : **2400**

Increase in Topsoil
Depth : **300%**

Natural Building



Timber Frame,
Straw Bale,
Natural Plasters,
Passive Solar, Sun
Heated Water,
Wood Cooking,
Clustered
Development

Acres in
Preservation: **68**

Acres Managed: **5**

Black-Latinx Farmer Immersion



NextGen
Farmer Activist
Trainees: **384**

Alumni who are
leaders in food
justice and
farming: **87%**



"I was depleted and discouraged, not sure if my vision of community farming was sustainable for me and my family. BLFI's embrace not only grounded me, but renewed my dreams and helped inspire our newly designed Ubuntu community farm program!"

- Keisha Cameron
BLFI 2016
High Hog Farms, Ubuntu
Training Program

Youth Food Justice Program



Youth Food Justice Empowerment Trainees: **1648**



“The youth gained a connection to the land and learned about the importance of story and history, the power of community and the importance of self-determination when it comes to land and food.”

- 2017 Youth Program adult chaperone

Land-Based Healing Justice



“If my
resilience
were a cup, it
would be
overflowing.”

Food Sovereignty Movement Building



Support for Activists



Activists
Trained and
Supported: **1408**

Member of:

**USFSA,
Freedom Food
Alliance, Via
Campesina,
NOFA NY,
National Black
Food and
Justice Alliance**

Sibling Farms in Haiti, P.R.



Trees Planted
in Haiti:

2000+

Composting
Systems: **75**

Farms

Irrigated: **20**

Organizing for Racial Justice



- Consulting and training organizations
- Contributed to reparations agenda for Vision for Black Lives
- Contributed to policy platforms for BUGS, NBLJA, NOFA
- Public talks and published articles reaching 80,000+

FARMING WHILE BLACK



SOUL FIRE FARM
GRAFTON, N.Y.

ALL REVOLUTION IS BASED ON LAND — MALCOLM X



To Free Ourselves We
Must Feed Ourselves

Stay Connected!



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