

# RURAL COALITION'S "A MOVEMENT IN TIME" TIMELINE: 1977-2012

*Rural Coalition/Coalición Rural will celebrate its 35th anniversary in 2013. To honor this milestone, we are compiling a more comprehensive timeline of what we have achieved together in those years. We encourage your participation and contributions to our timeline as we take time to reflect on our work together in the history of this movement we have built.*

**1977**

**Summer and Fall**

The first organizational meetings of the Rural Coalition.

**1978**

The Rural Coalition's charter members, some 22 national organizations, first join together to bring their combined experience and skills to bear on national policies affecting rural people and communities. RC is established as an informal coordinating mechanism with donated staff time of Larry Parachini of the Center for Community Change, and no dedicated staff or budget. It operates as something of an experiment—the first significant effort to develop a strong national voice for widely dispersed grassroots groups attempting to serve the rural poor.

The first action of the new Coalition is a letter requesting a meeting with President Jimmy Carter.




**1979**

**APRIL 1979**

More than 35 organizations are members of the Coalition's "It's Working" Committee, struggling to address issues ranging from agriculture to welfare rights. The committee concludes that the scope of the effect requires a small full-time staff and commitment to a minimum two-year program. Primary focus will be to try to force federal commitment to a comprehensive, coordinate, fully funded rural development policy.

Volunteer task forces work on this and related priorities, meeting with White House staff and members of Congress; other task forces focus on the federal budget for fiscal year 1980, problems of community economic development financing, and shortcomings of key rural programs operated by USDA's Farmer Home Administration (FmHA).



**RURAL COALITION'S**  
**"A MOVEMENT IN TIME"**  
**TIMELINE: 1977-2012**

**1979**

The Coalition develops a detailed policy paper *"Rural Development Policy: Framework & Recommendations,"* for use by White House staff, stressing the need for a federal policy to synchronize support in program planning, technical assistance, community facilities, employment, training, human services, and encouragement of community-based delivery networks.

The Coalition addresses 12 principal areas: agriculture (family farms and land use in particular), civil rights (especially voter education and legal services), community facilities and local government, economic development education, employment (especially public-service jobs and training), energy, environment, health and nutrition, housing, social services, and transportation.

**RC defines itself as "a developing national organization formed to help shape and influence public policies and processes affecting rural America."**

Membership is open to any organization willing to support a decent quality of life and their ability to control the processes that lead to fulfillment of that right in rural areas. The Working Committee meets with President Carter to discuss national rural development policy. The President supports many Coalition policy recommendations and commits himself to work for adoption of legislation—but is noncommittal about funding levels.

**NOVEMBER 1979**

In addition to extensive work on rural development policy, the Coalition has testified on budget issues for FY 1980, launched an information and advocacy campaign on welfare reform and other issues, and by years' end has grown to 47 member organizations. A small staff now works out of the Coalition's new Washington office.

**DECEMBER 1979**

President Carter announces his "Small Community and Rural Development Policy," noting: "Rural areas are unique. They have not been well served by federal programs. We have been missing a wholehearted commitment. We have long needed to translate generalized concerns about rural problems into a set of specific goals, principles, programs, and mechanisms for effective implementation."

1979

Largely in response to Rural Coalition initiatives, the White House announces **“more than 100” government actions** to be taken in 1980 to improve rural housing, health, water/sewer systems, education, employment, economic development, energy availability, transportation, communications and the environment.

President Carter asks Congress to create the position of Under Secretary of Agriculture for Small Community and Rural Development.

**Coalition members are pleased with presidential acknowledgement that problems are severe and need to be addressed. But, at the same time, Carter administration is proposing severe FY80 budget cuts in almost all programs affecting poor people in rural areas. It is clear that budget battles looms large and will dominate the Coalition’s efforts for the foreseeable future.**

1980

**SEPTEMBER 1980**

Work on rural development policy legislation continues through the year.

**Congress passes the Rural Development Policy Act of 1980, creating an Undersecretary for Rural Development in USDA, setting up a monitoring process including annual reports to Congress on projected expenditures for rural development programs, and establishing a variety of administrative mechanisms to improve coordination of policy.**



For RC, passage of the new law doesn’t represent a total victory, because it lacks teeth. Perhaps more importantly, severe budget cuts in low-income housing, health care, public assistance, public-service employment, and many other areas demonstrate that the administration is retreating from the exemplary rhetoric of the new law.

Rural Coalition now has four active task forces—with member organizations loaning staff time and talent—working on rural development policy, federal budget, Farmers Home Administration, and energy. Two others are forming, to work on rural unemployment and health and welfare problems.

Rural Coalition is incorporated as a non-profit organization in Washington, DC.

**The late Civil Rights Leader, Charles Bannerman, after whom the Charles Bannerman Memorial Awards were named, is the Rural Coalition’s first Chairperson.**

## 1980

RC works to see that the the Rural Development Policy Act of 1980 is implemented but it is an uphill struggle and other areas demand attention too. Attempting to respond, RC stretches its limited staff, volunteer aides, and finances to the breaking point. By the end of 1980 the Coalition counts 22 areas of activity including work to:

- Improve the accountability of the Community Services Administration to poor people in rural communities.
- Help a member organization, the Federation of Southern Cooperatives, to defend itself against politically-motivated attacks by federal agencies, including the FBI.
- Implement the Home Mortgage Disclosure Act, which requires lenders to provide information that can be used to determine patterns of credit discrimination.
- Prevent defunding of the Emergency Land Fund, a member organization, by the Community Services Administration.
- Develop a complete analysis of FmHA water/sewer regulations to improve eligibility of low-income housing projects.
- Develop policy positions on impact of gas rationing in rural areas.
- Block dismantling of food assistance programs threatened by budget cuts.
- Improve coordination efforts by organizations working to increase capacity of small communities to govern themselves.
- Improve effectiveness of organizations struggling to protect small farmers, especially black farmers in the South, against foreclosures and tax policies barring them from land ownership and, among many other things, backstopping efforts by rural telephone users to protect themselves against sudden cost increases related to deregulation. Busy year—but the outcome of the November elections suggest that 1981 will be busier by far.

## 1980

### **NOVEMBER. 12, 1980**

RC holds its first gathering, in a large white house in West Virginia, where future RC chairperson John Zippert was overheard to say of the newly elected President Ronald Reagan, "He's 70 and I'll be 35 tomorrow," signaling the optimism and staying power of community based activists.

## 1981

Like other public interest organizations, Rural Coalition is staggered by the White House budget cuts. Many efforts are shelved while the Coalition's federal budget task force mounts a damage-control operation.

Coalition initiates an expanded effort to improve communications and coordination among member organizations, built around publication of a regular Rural Coalition Report that provides the only comprehensive analysis of budget cuts affecting rural areas and programs, and proposes specific alternatives.

Budget cuts and appropriation battles dominate RC's time and energy throughout the year. But RC task forces press on with other efforts and score modest victories. The water/sewer task force succeeds in forcing reform of FmHA regulations and maintaining program funding levels. RC generates effective membership support for extension of Voting Rights Act and preservation of Legal Services Corporation.

### 1981 FARM BILL EDUCATION CAMPAIGN

RC develops a membership education campaign on the 1981 farm bill and its importance to family farms, food stamp programs, land use policy, and preservation of black land ownership in the South. RC also publicizes a national protest by farmers over discrimination in FmHA loan policies and agency's failure to support limited-resource and beginning farmers. Work on farm bill and related areas gives the Coalition a more solid base for future efforts on these key issues.

RC struggles to help coordinate member organizations' efforts to protect programs and initiatives across the entire range of rural of rural problems and develops educational materials on block grants and impact of reduced federal funding. Coalition members intensify efforts to advise congressional representatives of specific efforts of cutbacks.

## 1982

Administration launches a second round of cuts in domestic social programs and Coalition members respond preparing a detailed analysis of 21 specific program cuts, expanding education on budget alternatives (military spending, tax policies), and mounting a sustained effort to explain the impact of cuts in rural areas to key Congress committees.

The RC operates with seriously reduced funding and staffing, a consequence of concentrating on aiding members with maintaining holding operation against further federal budget cuts. This strategy produces some successes, but the Board and its Working Committee recognize the need to begin overhauling programs in order to generate adequate funds to support small staff and broad range of sustained multi-year efforts.

### JUNE 1982: RC "Rural Summit"

At its conclusion, more than 70 organizations have joined (and balance of membership has shifted from Washington-based toward more locally-based organizations) and they give Coalition a clear, urgent mandate to press on.



1983

Landloss Prevention Project is founded in North Carolina

The Farmworker Association of Florida is incorporated.



**JANUARY 1986 (December 1985)**

Hundreds of peasants from the northern part of the state of Chihuahua took over 69 storage silos of CONASUPO (the state buyer of agricultural and food products). As a result of the action, the guaranteed prices for corn and beans were increased 30%.

1987

The Intertribal Agriculture Council (IAC) is founded. The IAC itself grew out of a study initiated by members of the Rural Coalition, led by Mary Lee Johns who then worked with the American Friends Service Committee.



Operation Spring Plant, Inc. was founded.



**The Frente Democrático Campesino (FDC) (the "Democratic Peasant's Front") was founded and was the first Rural Coalition member in Mexico.**



The FDC grew out of a wide social movement in the state of Chihuahua during the winters of 1985-1986 and 1987-1988, after the small producers organized independently to demand better prices for corn and beans.

**1987 FARM CREDIT ACT**

The Rural Coalition, the Federation of Southern Cooperatives/Land Assistance Fund, the Rural Advancement Fund, the Arkansas Land and Farm Development Corporation, the Intertribal Agriculture Council, the National Family Farm Coalition and various national religious groups secured language in the 1987 Farm Credit Act that made additional FmHA ownership loan funds available to historically underserved farmers, established target participation rates to track how loan funds were allocated by county and defined "socially disadvantaged farmers."

1988



Organización en California de Lideres Campesinas is founded.

1990

**1990 MINORITY FARMERS RIGHTS ACT**

Originally drafted by the Rural Coalition, the North Carolina Association of Black Lawyers Land Loss Prevention Project, the Federation of Southern Cooperatives/Land Assistance Fund, Farmers Legal Action Group, Interfaith Action for Economic Justice, the Arkansas Land and Farm Development Corporation, the Rural Advancement Fund, and the Intertribal Agriculture Council, the 1990 Minority Farmers Rights Act was introduced by then Representative Mike Espy and Senator Wyche Fowler.

**MAY 1990**

**The Rural Coalition publishes a report "The Status of Minority Farming Today."**

**1990 FARM BILL**

Congress later incorporated parts of the Minority Farmers Rights Act into the 1990 Farm Bill. The Outreach and Technical Assistance Program for Socially Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers was established in Section 2501 of the bill and the Indian Reservation Extension Agent Program was authorized to provide essential services on reservations to Indian producers.

1992

**SEPTEMBER 12, 1992: NO ON NAFTA**

The Rural Coalition holds its Assembly in El Paso-Chihuahua, hosted by the Sin Fronteras Organizing Project and the Frente Democratico Campesino, to examine the real intent and impact of the North American Free Trade Agreement and to witness the struggles of farmworkers on the border. The producers we visit in northern Chihuahua conclude NAFTA means "I guess we won't be able to grow corn anymore."

The Assembly responds by signing an agreement for international solidarity on the International Bridge. We also pledge to support the harvesters of chili peppers in their struggle for fair treatment in the agriculture workplaces in Texas and New Mexico.

**OCTOBER 1992 "SIGN THE CHECK" CARAVANS**

The Federation of Southern Cooperatives/ Land Assistance Fund spearheads a massive caravan of African-American, Latino, Asian-American and American Indian farmers to Washington, DC from various locations in the Southeast. The advocates called upon Congress and the Clinton Administration to "sign the check" and allocate the \$10 million dollars authorized but never fully appropriated for the 2501 Outreach and Technical Assistance to Socially Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers Program.

Representatives of RC member organization, the Frente Democrático Campesino, a Chihuahua-based agricultural producer organization, join with the Caravan participants in Washington and carry their concerns about NAFTA members of the US House of Representatives Government Operations Subcommittee.

**1992**

**OCTOBER 1992**

The Government Operations Subcommittee reroutes a planned trip and stops in the state of Chihuahua to investigate the rural crisis in Mexico. RC greets the delegation there and guides them on visits to member communities of the Frente Democratico Campesino.

RC leaders Rev. Camilo Daniel and Victor Quintana are invited and travel to testify in the U.S. House of Representatives on the impact of NAFTA on rural communities in Mexico.

**1993**

The Rural Coalition joined forces with farm organizations in Mexico to fight passage of the North America Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA).

**FEBRUARY. 1993 “WE HAVENT GOT A COMMUNITY TO WASTE”**

RC coordinates, and with 30 other organizations, hosts a reception “We Haven’t Got a Community to Waste,” for new rural members of Congress. Two hundred fifty people attend the event at the House Agriculture Committee room.

**FALL 1993 EMPOWERMENT ZONES AND ENTERPRISE (EZ/EC) PROGRAM**

RC works with the United States Department of Agriculture to convene a workshop with community-based organizations on the design of the Clinton Administration’s Federal Empowerment Zone and Enterprise (EZ/EC) program

**1994**

**1994 USDA REORGANIZATION ACT**

RC and its partners seek language in the 1994 Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act authorizing community-based organizations representing historically underserved farmers to nominate eligible producers to the re-organized FSA county committees.

**JANUARY 24, 1997**

Congress agreed to commission a General Accounting Office (GAO) report on the subject, which was finally released on.

**FEBRUARY 1994**

The RC Board of Directors meets with Secretary of Agriculture Mike Espy to secure the Secretary’s support for the full \$10 million appropriation for minority farmer outreach and continued support of the Minority Farmers Rights Act that he had introduced as a member of Congress in 1990.

**MARCH 1994**

Rural Coalition convenes for its Annual Assembly, Building the Movement for Community-Based Development at the Penn Center in the Sea Islands of South Carolina hosted by the Rural Advancement Fund, the Penn Center and Institute for Southern Studies.



## 1994

### MAY 1994

A Rural Coalition board delegation travels to Chihuahua, Mexico to begin creating an equitable framework for trade and identifying products that were available for an interactive people-to-people alternative NAFTA marketing and health networked called the "SuperMarket Coop."

### AUGUST. 1994

At the invitation of the Frente Democrático Campesino, the Rural Coalition organizes an international observer team to observe and document the electoral process in Mexico.

Rural Coalition Board Member, Pat Bellanger of the American Indian Movement represents the Rural Coalition at a rally against the Northern States Power Company's plans for dry cask storage of nuclear waste at the Prairie Island community, the Mdewakanton Sioux Reservation on the Mississippi River.

### DECEMBER. 1994

Secretary of Agriculture Mike Espy announces the establishment of three Empowerment Zones and thirty Enterprise Communities in rural areas. Several Rural Coalition member organizations were principal recipients including Arkansas Land and Farm Development Corporation, Boggs Rural Life Center, Federation of Southern Cooperatives/Land Assistance Fund and the Center for Community Action.

## 1995

### 1995 FARM BILL

The Rural Coalition, the Federation of Southern Cooperatives/Land Assistance Fund and the North Carolina Association of Black Lawyers Land Loss Prevention Project draft a completely new Minority Farmers Rights Act for the 1995 Farm Bill debate

### JUNE 1995 RC ANNUAL ASSEMBLY

Rural Coalition Annual Assembly, One People, One Planet: Replanting Communities on the Land, convened at Window Rock, Arizona, seat of the Navajo Nation.

The Office of Civil Rights Enforcement of USDA cooperated with the Rural Coalition to conduct the first ever forum that included diverse representation from African-American, American Indian, Asian-American and Latino rural communities.

**1997**

**FEBRUARY. 1997 USDA Civil Rights Action Team (CRAT)**

The USDA establishes a Civil Rights Action Team (CRAT) which holds over a dozen listening sessions and reviews many documents. Rural Coalition was instrumental in organizing and testifying at many, patterned after the session held at the 1995 Assembly in Window Rock, Arizona. The CRAT, which included current board member Rudy Arredondo, report made over 92 recommendations regarding the civil rights system, including setting measurable goals, and clear leadership and accountability.

**JUNE 1997**

The Rural Coalition Annual Assembly “Healing, Planting and Harvesting – Taking the Future Into Our Own Hands” convened in Montpelier, Vermont, hosted by the Markham Center, which begins with a field visit to rural communities in coastal Maine. Rep. Bernie Sanders (VT) assists the Rural Coalition to protect board member Victor Quintana who is detained in Mexico attempting to attend the Assembly.

**FALL 1997: NCCBOA**

The National Council of Community-Based Organizations in Agriculture (NCCBOA) is founded to provide a formal structure for community-based organizations to coordinate among themselves and to assist the USDA and other federal agencies in providing services to historically underserved and limited resource farmers and ranchers. Holding the USDA accountable for civil rights was identified as the first priority of the NCCBOA. The Rural Coalition organized the first convening of NCCBOA and was asked to manage the group and arrange future planning meetings.

**1998**

**APRIL 1998: PEOPLE’S SUMMIT ON THE AMERICAS (FTAA PROTEST)**

RC Board Member, Altagracia “Chilo” Villarreal, represents the Rural Coalition in the People’s Summit of the Americas held in Santiago de Chile and at the same time as the Summit of the Americas, attended by Western leaders to launch negotiations for a Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA). Community organizers of environmental, indigenous, rural workers, and women’s and human rights groups meet to affirm their concerns and disapproval with the FTAA and other trade agreements in the area.

**JULY 1998**

RC member groups and partners present a four-point action plan to Secretary of Agriculture Dan Glickman and Deputy Secretary Richard Rominger to improve USDA delivery of services to African American, American Indian, Asian American and Latino farmers and ranchers.

<b>1998</b>	
<b>SEPTEMBER 1998</b>	
<p>RC and its partners send a letter to the House-Senate Agriculture Appropriations Conferees requesting the removal of legislative barriers to the settlement of long-standing civil rights complaints in the fiscal year 1999 agriculture appropriations bill. RC and its partners also oppose all versions of legislation to establish a new and punitive guest worker program that would result in renewed exploitation of farmworkers.</p>	
<b>1999</b>	
<b>SEPTEMBER 1999</b>	<b>LATE 1999: WTO OPPOSITION</b>
<p>RC holds its Assembly “Food n’ Justice” in Creel, Chihuahua, where we are welcomed by the Rarámuri people, and we recognize ourselves as a “transnational social movement.”</p>	<p>RC joins many partner organizations in Seattle to oppose ceding control of agriculture to the World Trade Organization.</p>
<b>1998</b>	
<b>APRIL 1998: PEOPLE’S SUMMIT ON THE AMERICAS (FTAA PROTEST)</b>	<b>JULY 1998</b>
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<b>2000</b>	
<b>APRIL 2000: SUPERMARKET COOP</b>	
<p>RC officially launches the SuperMarket Coop, an online marketing network to assist small farmers and campesinos cooperatively market their products. The SuperMarket strives to locate markets for sustainably produced products; provide training in developing product descriptions, legal and contract assistance, information on transportation and import/export requirements; and training on how to develop a business plan and reduce risk.</p>	

## 2001-2002

### FARM BILL DEBATE

The Rural Coalition collaborated with other key allies in the diverse family farm, farmworker, sustainable agriculture, community food security and fair trade movements, to create and provide policy makers with draft equity provisions for the 2001 Farm Bill debate, which is extended into 2002.

## 2002

### APRIL 2002

RC holds its Annual Assembly in Washington, DC to spur action on the 2002 Farm Bill, which by year's end is passed with new equity provisions including increased funding authority for the 2501 Outreach and Assistance Program for Socially Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers to \$25 million annually, establishment of the USDA Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, and transparency and accountability provisions on USDA program participation.

### HOUSE HEARING ON CIVIL RIGHTS

During a floor colloquy in the House of Representatives, the House Agriculture Committee agrees to hold the first-ever hearing on Civil Rights in Agriculture.

### SEPTEMBER 2002

Rural Coalition Chairperson John Zippert presents testimony on behalf of the Rural Coalition and the Federation of Southern Cooperatives on the need for expanded oversight and action on Civil Rights in Agriculture.

## 2004

### AUGUST 2004 NLFRTA Founded

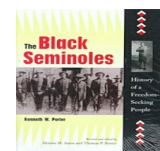
National Latino Farmers and Ranchers Trade Association is founded.



## 2005

### OBHRP

Oklahoma Black Historical Research Project, Inc. is founded.



## 2006-2008

### FARM BILL: FARM AND FOOD POLICY DIVERSITY INITIATIVE FORMED

The Farm and Food Policy Diversity Initiative, coordinated by the Rural Coalition, secured more than 30 equity sections in the 2008 Farm Bill that provided access and opportunity to historically underserved farmers, ranchers and farmworkers.

## 2008

### JUNE 2008 GREAT IMMIGRATION DEBATE

RC holds its 30th Anniversary Assembly, The Great Immigration Debate, in Homestead, Florida, hosted by the Farmworker Association of Florida.

### SEPTEMBER 2008 RURAL COALITION JOINS VIA CAMPESINA

Rural Coalition is accepted as a member La Via Campesina, an International Peasant's movement at its 5th International Conference in Maputo, Mozambique.



## 2008-2010

### APRIL 2002 NRCS APPROVES SEASONAL HIGH TUNNELS

RC works on the implementation of the 2008 Farm Bill and on the outreach to producers on using the new authority. RC proposes that the Natural Resources and Conservation Service approve seasonal high tunnels as a conservation practice.

**Between 2009 and 2012, NRCS supports completion of more than 7,000 high tunnels, including many on farms operated by RC members.**

## 2010

### ACT REPORT IS RELEASED

The Rural Coalition and the Federation of Southern Cooperatives/Land Assistance Fund released a 180-page report entitled, "A Time to Change: Report of the Assessment Conversations Team (The ACT report), that compiled findings by over a hundred participants in the 5-year USDA-Community Based Organization Partners process, and reviewed the status of implementation of the 2008 Farm Bill by USDA through January 2009. Over 200 recommendations on actions to improve equity in agriculture are included.

### YOUTH IN TODAY'S AGRICULTURE SOCIAL FORUM Detroit, MI

### JULY 2010

The Rural Coalition compiles a compendium of many statements issued from diverse communities in support of Shirley Sherrod, former USDA Rural Development Director for the state of Georgia, who was forced to resign by the Obama Administration after her comments at an NAACP Awards dinner were manipulated by a conservative political blogger, Andrew Breitbart.





**2010**

**DECEMBER 2010:**

**PIGFORD II**

President Barack Obama signs a bill providing settlement funds for the Pigford II African American Farmers settlement and the Cobell settlement resolving claims of American Indian individuals against the Interior Department. RC leaders and allies were in attendance at the White House.

**COP16 CARAVANS to MEXICO**

Rural Coalition delegation members join fellow climate justice campaigners, environmentalists and social justice advocates from around the world for COP16 in Cancun. Traveling with Via Campesina organized caravans en route to COP 16, the caravans visited communities struggling and in resistance, learning about the local effects of climate change and adding their voices of solidarity to communities working to construct a better future.

**2011**

**JULY 2011**

RC holds a National Rural Gathering: Water, Land, Energy and Food which is widened to include the RC Assembly and the national meetings of its partner groups, in Shawnee and Wewoka, Oklahoma, hosted by the Oklahoma Black Historical Research Project.

**RC members pass a resolution seeking changes to make the proposed USDA Hispanic and Women’s Claims process more fair and more similar to the African American and American Indian Settlements.**

**AUGUST. 2011**

**WHITE HOUSE RURAL FORUM**

RC leaders participate in the White House Rural Forum in Peosta, Iowa.

**NOVEMBER 2011**

**GOAT PLANNING BEGINS**

An informal group meeting at the Community Food Security Coalition Conference in Oakland, California proposes the creation of the “Getting Our Act Together (GOAT) on the Farm Bill” collaboration. The group begins planning.

**DECEMBER 2011 KEEPSAAGLE SETTLE AGREEMENT CLOSES**

The 180-day period for American Indian producers to submit discrimination claims under the Keepseagle Settlement Agreement closes.

**2012**

**JANUARY 2012**

USDA announces the addition of a \$250,000 claims level to the Hispanic and Women’s Claims process.

## 2012

### FEBRUARY 2012

GOAT (Getting Our Act Together) holds its first meeting in Washington, DC to develop a collaborative structures to share information and seek alignment among organizations supporting equity in the 2012 Farm Bill. Collaboration continues on a weekly basis through the on-again, off-again Farm Bill Process.

### MAY 2012

The 180-day period for African American producers to submit claims under the *In Re Black Farmers Settlement Agreement* closes.

### JUNE. 2012

Rural Coalition participates in the national meeting in New York City of the emerging Food Chain Workers, an organization supporting the rights of all workers in the food chain.

### JULY 2012

Rural Coalition participates in the Peoples Summit in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil in Solidarity with the Via Campesina, MST and MAB and other international social movements in support of the "Real Green Economy," Peasant Farmers.

### SEPTEMBER 2012

#### HISPANIC AND WOMEN'S CLAIMS PROCESS OPENS

The Hispanic and Women Farmers and Ranchers Claims process opens with continued action by RC and its members to seek fairer terms and to assure all potentially eligible producers know about the process.

#### FAIR FARM BILL: PETITION DELIVERY AND PRESS CONFERENCE

With partners ColorOfChange.org, NFFC, NLFRTA and others, a 35,000 signed petition was delivered to the House of Agriculture during a Press Conference urging for a fair farm bill that included full funding for the 2501 Outreach and Assistance Program and (SNAP) Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program. congresswoman Rosa Delauro (RI), congressman Jim McGovern (MA) of the House Ag Committee, Congresswoman Terri Sewell (AL) were all present to speak in support.

### OCTOBER 2012

Alianza Campesinas Nacional (The National Alliance of Farmworker Women) is formed in Washington, DC, Rural Coalition helps in meetings with key Congressional Meetings to express concerns on labor conditions, health, violence toward women and other critical issues.

### NOVEMBER 2012

Budget battles and the "fiscal cliff" dominate the Congressional agenda yet again, as the 2012 Farm Bill remains on hold in a year when disasters affect farmers and rural communities across the nation.