



**BLACK FARMERS  
AND  
AGRICULTURALISTS  
ASSOCIATION, INC.**

## Historical Grassroots

Black Farmers and Agriculturalists Association, Inc. (BFAA) is a Memphis, Tennessee-based non-profit organization established in 1997 by Thomas Burrell, a passionate farmer from Covington, Tennessee who ignited a movement to address issues and concerns of Black farmers in the United States and abroad who were deliberately discriminated against by the U. S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). BFAA has an active membership of more than 15,000 farmers nationwide. The organization is not only comprised of Black farmers, but Black female and Hispanic farmers as well.

BFAA gained nationwide prominence after successfully launching a worldwide public and media awareness campaign in the historic (Pigford v. Glickman) 1999 class action lawsuit against USDA, alleging racial discrimination against Black farmers in its allocation of farm loans and assistance between 1981 and 1996. The lawsuit was settled on April 14, 1999 for almost \$1 billion dollars. BFAA continuous goal is to ensure that every Black farmer receives appropriate compensation, including advocating that the USDA discontinues its practices of blatant racial discrimination against Black farmers.

