

RACISM AND THE FOOD WE EAT

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THE FOOD WE EAT

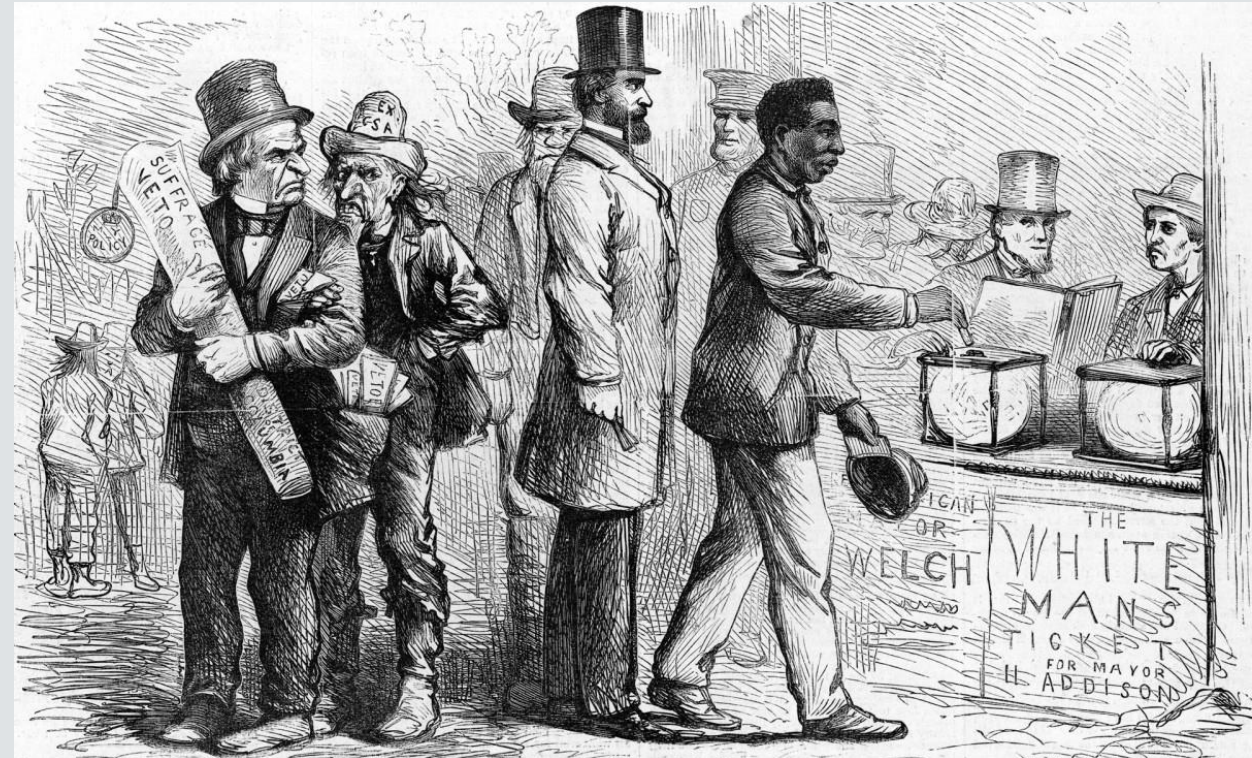


FOCUS TODAY

- Land ownership
- Access to Government Programs
- Labor
 - Farmworkers
 - Meat processing
 - Foodservice
- Food Security
 - Nutrition
 - Access
- COVID-19



LAND OWNERSHIP/HISTORY



Appendix Table 3—Farm operators in the U.S. by race, 1900 to 1997

Year	Total	Black	White	Other
1900	5,739,657	746,717	4,970,129	22,811
1910	6,365,822	893,370	5,440,619	31,833
1920	6,453,991	925,708	5,498,454	29,829
1930	6,295,103	882,850	5,372,578	39,675
1940	6,102,417	681,790	5,377,728	42,899
1950	5,388,437	559,980	4,801,243	27,214
1959	3,707,973	272,541	3,423,361	12,071
1964	3,157,857	184,004	2,957,905	15,948
1969	2,730,250	87,393	2,626,403	16,454
1974	2,314,013	45,594	2,254,642	13,777
1978	2,257,775	37,351	2,199,787	20,637
1982	2,240,976	33,250	2,186,609	21,117
1987	2,087,759	22,954	2,043,119	21,686
1992	1,925,300	18,816	1,881,813	24,671
1997	1,911,859	18,451	1,864,201	29,207

Source: Census of Agriculture. Selected years. Washington, DC: Bureau of the Census

Growing Disparity

Opportunities for black farmers have declined in the agriculture industry: In 2017, 35,470 farms had black operators, compared with 36,382 farms in 2012.

Total number of U.S. farms 2,042,220

35,470 farms with black operators

Total acreage in U.S. farms 900,217,576

4,673,140 acres are in farms with black operators

Average size of a U.S. farm
with black operators

132 acres

Average size of
a U.S. farm

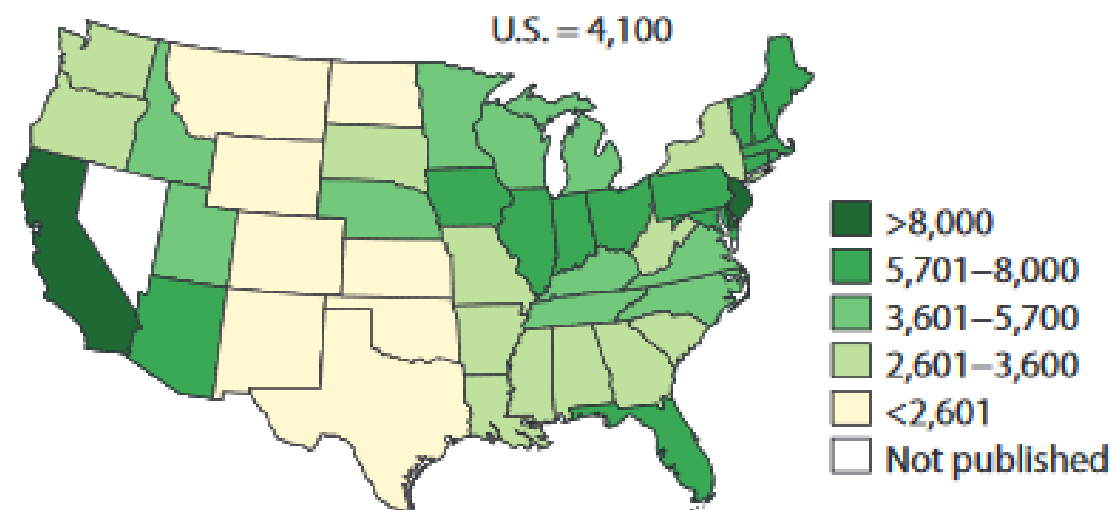
441 acres

Sources: 2012 and 2017 Census of Agriculture

Bloomberg Government

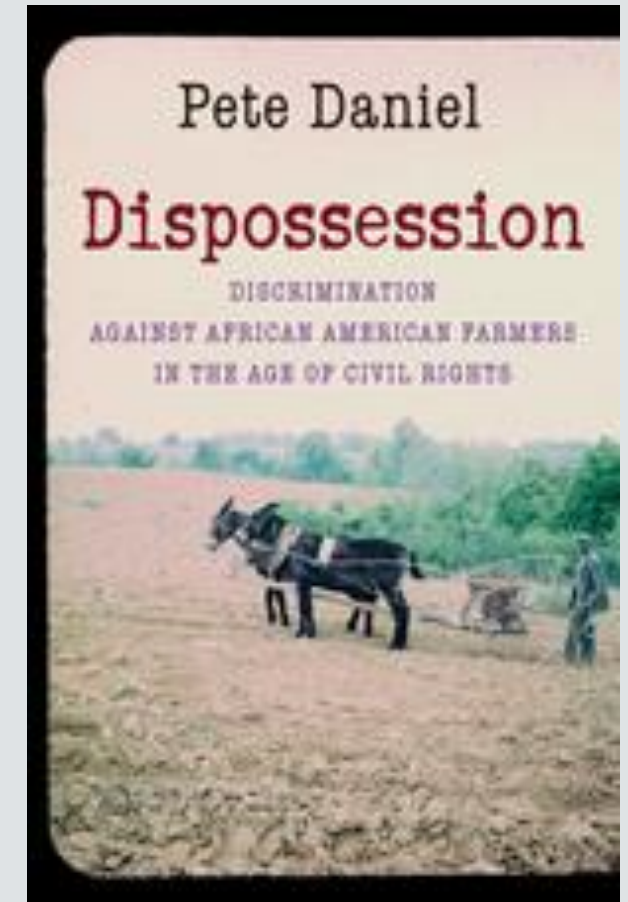
LAND VALUE

Fig. 2. Cropland Value by State, 2020 (\$ per acre)



Source: USDA NASS. Data are for the 48 contiguous states.

BARRIERS TO OWNERSHIP

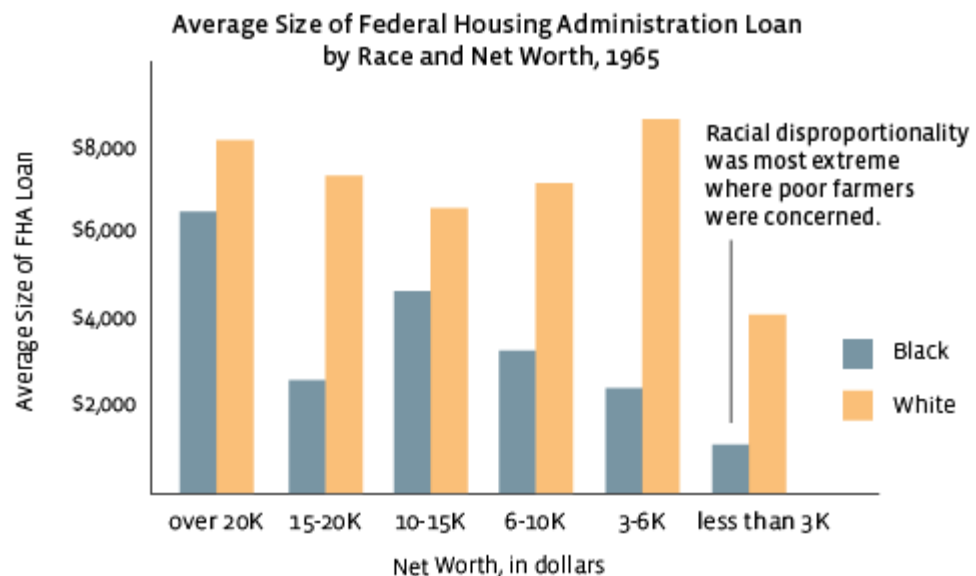


GOVERNMENT PROGRAMS

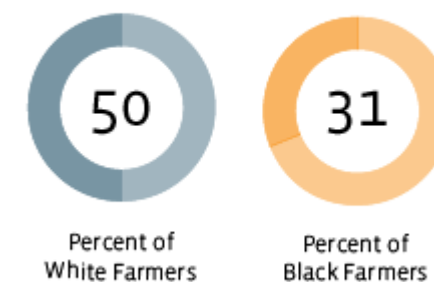
USDA



Discriminatory lending policies at the United States Department of Agriculture and the Federal Housing Administration contributed to the problem.



Farmers Who Received Payments from the Government, 2007



United States Farms with White Producers^a

Total and Per Farm Overview, 2017

	Farms with White Producers	All Farms
Number of farms	1,973,006	2,042,220
Land in farms (acres)	849,816,725	900,217,576
Average size of farm (acres)	431	441
Total	(\$)	(\$)
Market value of products sold	381,050,061,000	388,522,695,000
Government payments	8,851,913,000	8,943,574,000
Farm-related income	16,592,565,000	16,847,824,000
Total farm production expenses	320,456,555,000	326,390,640,000
Net cash farm income	86,037,984,000	87,923,453,000
Per farm average	(\$)	(\$)
Market value of products sold	193,132	190,245
Government payments (average per farm receiving)	14,004	13,906
Farm-related income	21,530	21,478
Total farm production expenses	162,420	159,821
Net cash farm income	43,608	43,053

United States Farms with Black or African American Producers^a

Total and Per Farm Overview, 2017

	Farms with Black/African American Producers	All Farms
Number of farms	35,470	2,042,220
Land in farms (acres)	4,673,140	900,217,576
Average size of farm (acres)	132	441
Total	(\$)	(\$)
Market value of products sold	1,416,256,000	388,522,695,000
Government payments	58,807,000	8,943,574,000
Farm-related income	87,042,000	16,847,824,000
Total farm production expenses	1,437,647,000	326,390,640,000
Net cash farm income	124,459,000	87,923,453,000
Per farm average	(\$)	(\$)
Market value of products sold	39,928	190,245
Government payments (average per farm receiving)	7,108	13,906
Farm-related income	9,872	21,478
Total farm production expenses	40,531	159,821
Net cash farm income	3,509	43,053

Iowa Farms with White Producers^a

Total and Per Farm Overview, 2017

	Farms with White Producers	All Farms
Number of farms	86,009	86,104
Land in farms (acres)	30,554,383	30,563,878
Average size of farm (acres)	355	355
Total	(\$)	(\$)
Market value of products sold	28,949,012,000	28,956,455,000
Government payments	682,719,000	682,995,000
Farm-related income	1,382,125,000	1,382,573,000
Total farm production expenses	23,534,040,000	23,541,463,000
Net cash farm income	7,479,817,000	7,480,560,000
Per farm average	(\$)	(\$)
Market value of products sold	336,581	336,296
Government payments (average per farm receiving)	11,147	11,146
Farm-related income	25,893	25,890
Total farm production expenses	273,623	273,407
Net cash farm income	86,966	86,878

Iowa Farms with Black or African American Producers^a

Total and Per Farm Overview, 2017

	Farms with Black/African American Producers	All Farms
Number of farms	69	86,104
Land in farms (acres)	9,714	30,563,878
Average size of farm (acres)	141	355
Total	(\$)	(\$)
Market value of products sold	15,938,000	28,956,455,000
Government payments	346,000	682,995,000
Farm-related income	72,000	1,382,573,000
Total farm production expenses	12,054,000	23,541,463,000
Net cash farm income	4,303,000	7,480,560,000
Per farm average	(\$)	(\$)
Market value of products sold	230,988	336,296
Government payments (average per farm receiving)	18,232	11,146
Farm-related income	5,148	25,890
Total farm production expenses	174,695	273,407
Net cash farm income	62,358	86,878

IN THE COURTS

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

TIMOTHY C. PIGFORD, et al.,
Plaintiffs,
v.

DAN GLICKMAN, SECRETARY,
THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURE,

Defendant.

CECIL BREWINGTON, et al.,
Plaintiffs,
v.

DANIEL R. GLICKMAN,
Defendant.

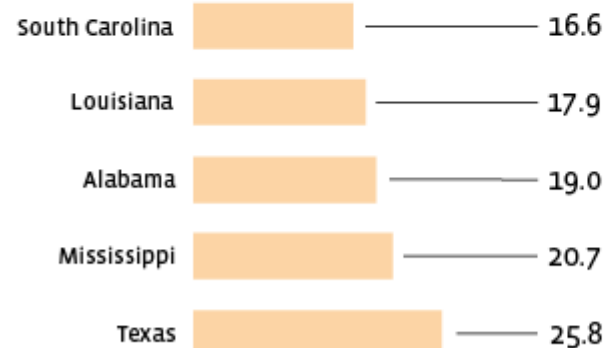
NOTICE OF CLASS CERTIFICATION A

TO: All African American farmers to farm, between January 1, 1 applied to the United States (USDA) during that time period federal farm credit or benefit that they were discriminated in USDA's response to that discrimination complaint or regarding USDA's treatment of application.

\$2.3
billion

awarded to black farmers in the class-action lawsuit Pigford v. Glickman (filed in 1997) against the USDA for discrimination based upon race.

The typical payment received from the Pigford settlement was \$50,000 per farmer. Here's how many acres of land that would purchase in key farming states in 2015.

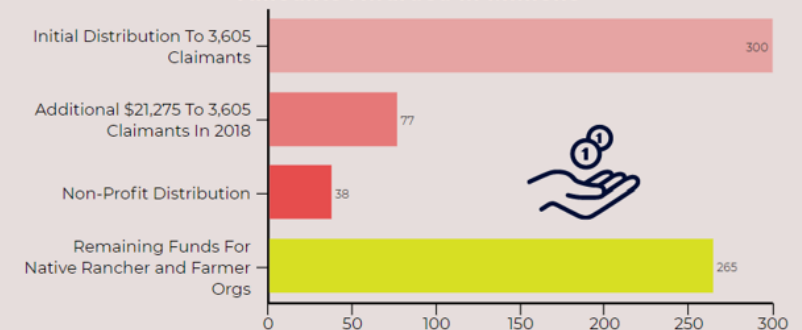


The median size of a farm in the United States in 2012 was **80 acres.**

Keepseagle Settlement

Total Awarded In The Settlement
\$680 Million

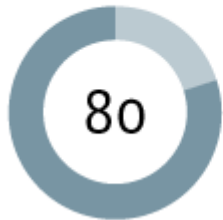
Amounts Awarded in Millions



Remaining Amounts Are Approximated As Final Awards Have Not Yet Been Released -- IndianCountryToday.com

LABOR FORCE

Percentage of
Farmworkers
who Identify as Latino

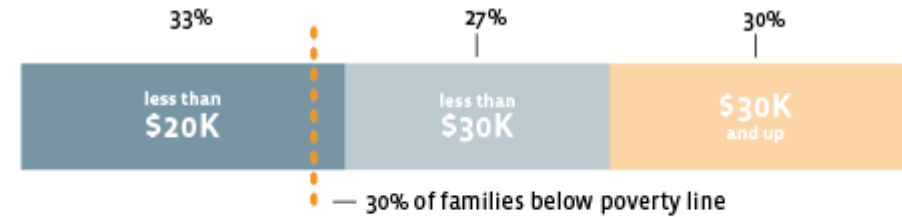


Percentage of
Farm Managers
who Identify as Latino



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

Farmworkers' Total Family Income Levels, 2013 -2014



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

Demographic characteristics of hired farmworkers and all wage and salary workers, 2018

Item	Farm laborers, graders and sorters	Farm managers, inspectors, and supervisors	All other occupations in agriculture	Agriculture: All occupations	All U.S. private wage and salary workers
Percent White, not Hispanic	32	64	59	43	60
Percent Black, not Hispanic	3	3	5	3	12
Percent other, not Hispanic	2	3	3	2	9
Percent Hispanic: Mexican origin	57	27	28	45	12
Percent Hispanic: Other	7	3	6	6	7
Percent born in U.S. (includes Puerto Rico)	45	76	75	57	80
Percent U.S.	54	84	83	65	90

FARMWORKERS: CURRENT CONCERNS

PBS
NEWS
HOUR

**Deemed essential, California
farmworkers risk disease and
deportation**

Nov 11, 2020 6:35 PM EST

FARMWORKERS: CURRENT CONCERNS

BUSINESS

Farmworkers Say The Government Is Trying To Cut Their Wages

November 11, 2020 - 4:00 PM ET

Heard on [All Things Considered](#)



DAN CHARLES



WORKING CONDITIONS

‘They think workers are like dogs.’ How pork plant execs sacrificed safety for profits.

From City Hall to the White House, our investigation found, officials let Triumph Foods stay open as hundreds of workers got coronavirus. Four died.

By Rachel Axon, Kyle Bagenstose and Kevin Crowe, USA TODAY; Sky Chadde, Midwest Center for Investigative Reporting

Updated 5:08 p.m. CST Nov. 12, 2020

MEAT PROCESSING LABOR FORCE

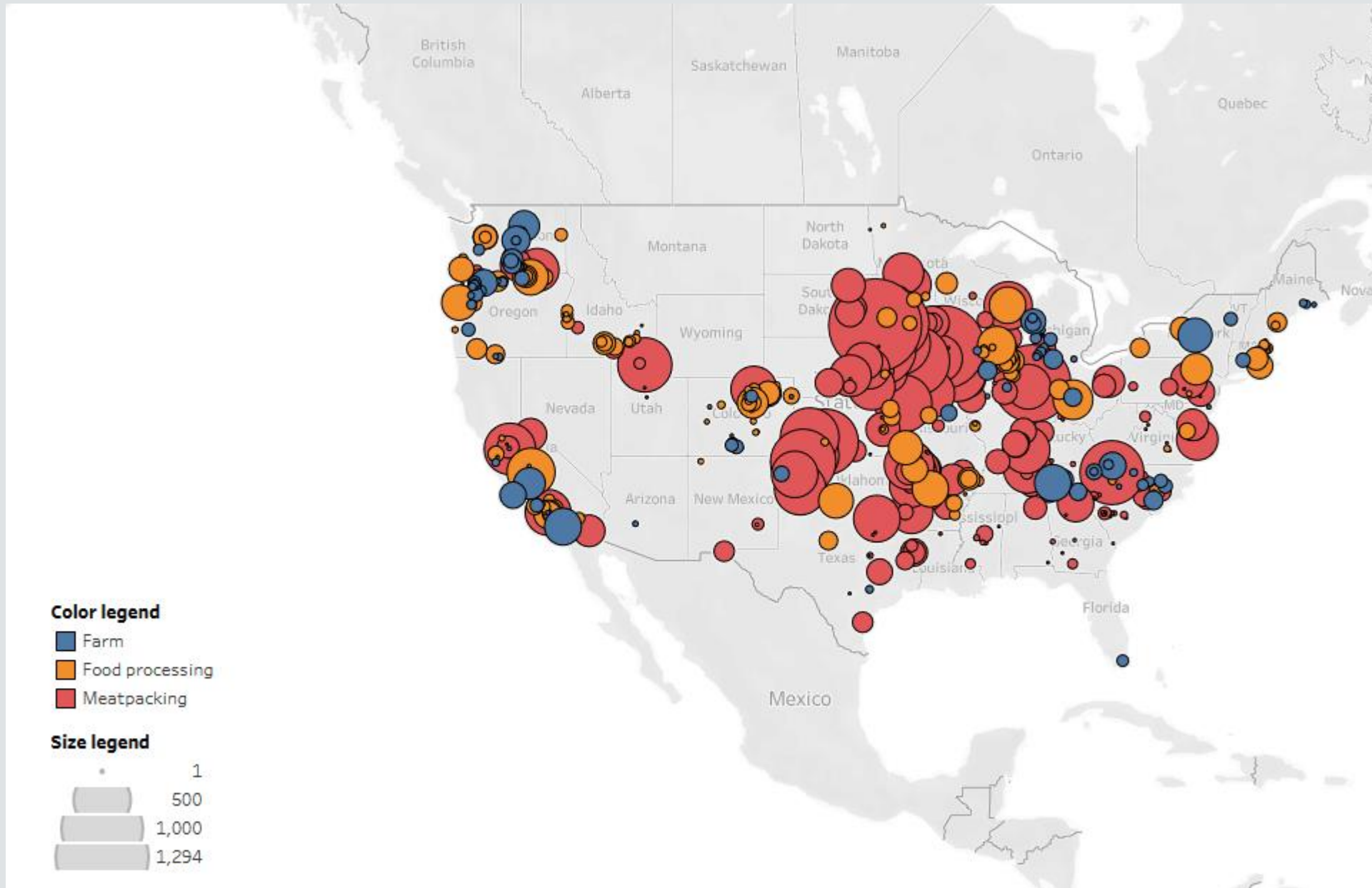
TABLE 2

Characteristics of all U.S. workers and of animal slaughtering and processing workers in the U.S.

	All U.S. workers	Animal slaughtering and processing workers
Age (mean)	41.9	41.3
Female	47.4%	36.2%
Race		
White	63.5%	34.5%
Black	11.3%	21.9%
Latinx	16.8%	34.9%
Asian American/Pacific Islander	5.9%	6.8%
American Indian/Alaskan Native	0.5%	0.7%
Other	2.0%	1.3%
Foreign-born	17.1%	37.5%
Citizenship status among foreign-born workers		
Naturalized citizen	49.6%	29.1%
Noncitizen	50.4%	70.9%
Median wage and salary income	\$35,989	\$30,485
Below poverty line	7.2%	8.8%

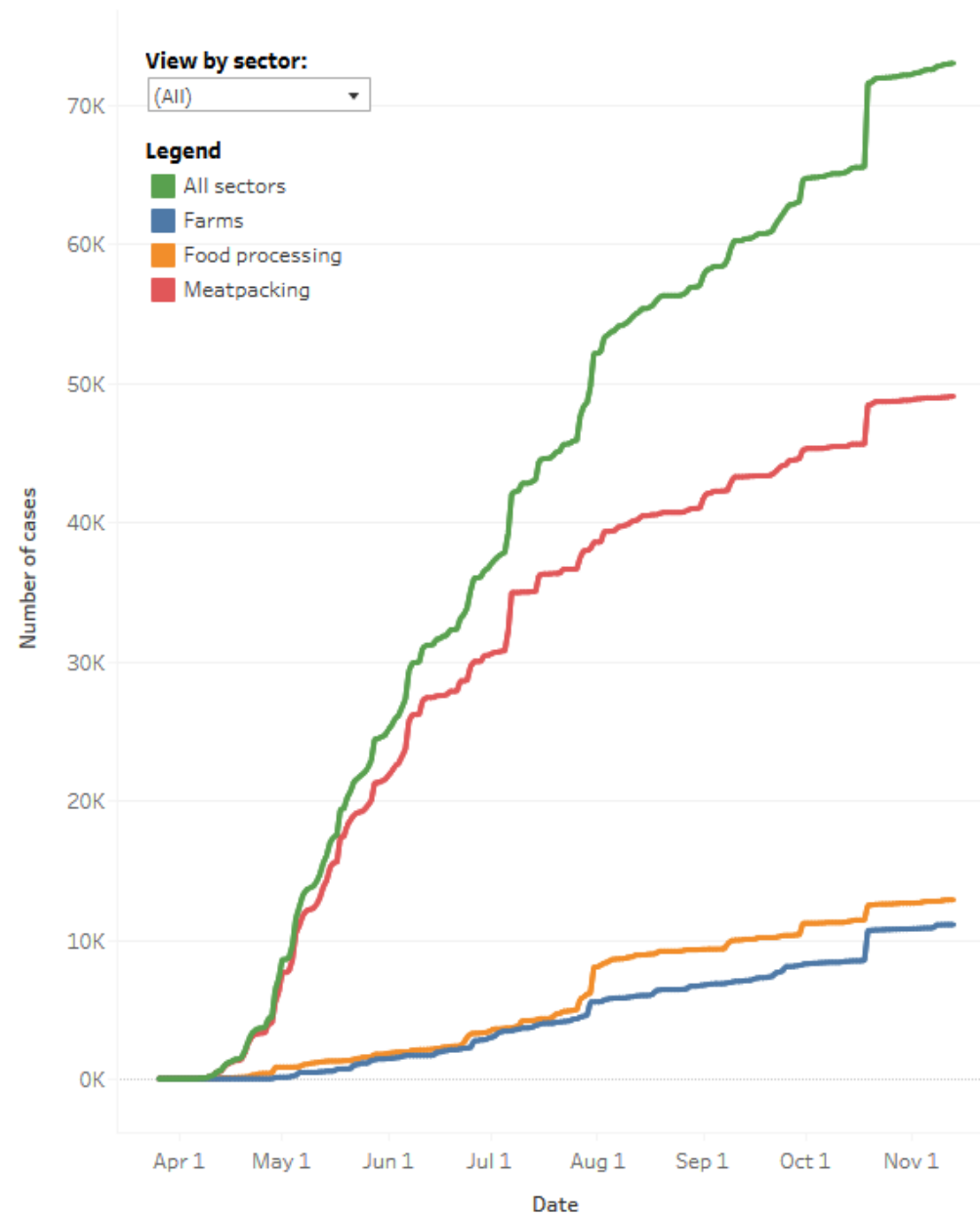
MEATPACKING AND POULTRY PROCESSING
Characteristics of animal slaughtering and processing workers in the top five meatpacking and poultry processing states

	Meatpacking	Poultry processing
Age (mean)	41.9	40.6
Female	32.2%	40.1%
Race		
White	29.2%	29.5%
Black	12.0%	37.2%
Latinx	47.7%	26.5%
Asian American/Pacific Islander	9.8%	4.8%
American Indian/Alaskan Native	0.5%	0.9%
Other	0.8%	1.2%
Foreign-born	56.1%	28.1%



Great work tracking food industry outbreaks by Leah Douglas at FERN (Food & Environment Reporting Network)

Cumulative Covid-19 cases by food sector



FOODSERVICE

FIG 2

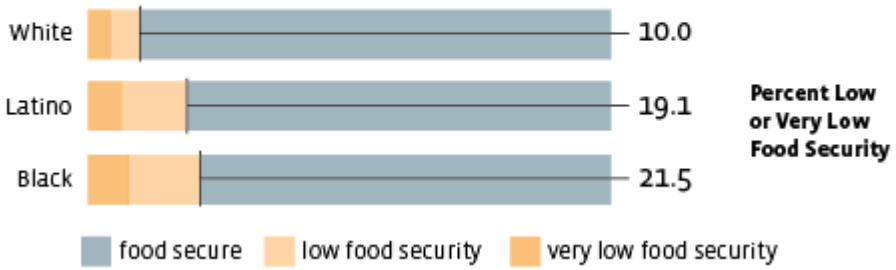
Real and perceived barriers
impacting occupational segregation
in the restaurant industry.



FOOD SECURITY

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.



Families of color have significantly less access to quality food...

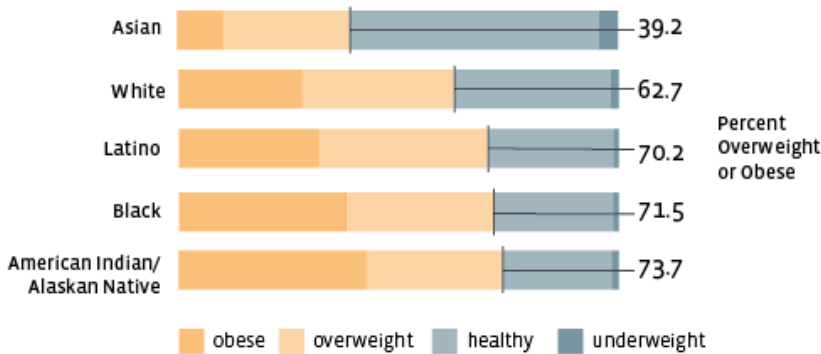
Americans Living in Communities With One or More Supermarkets, 2013



...which leads to higher rates of diabetes and other chronic disease.

Body Mass Index, American Adults 18 and over, 2011-2014

Body Mass Index is a measure of body fat based on height and weight. A BMI over 25 is considered overweight and over 30 is considered obese.





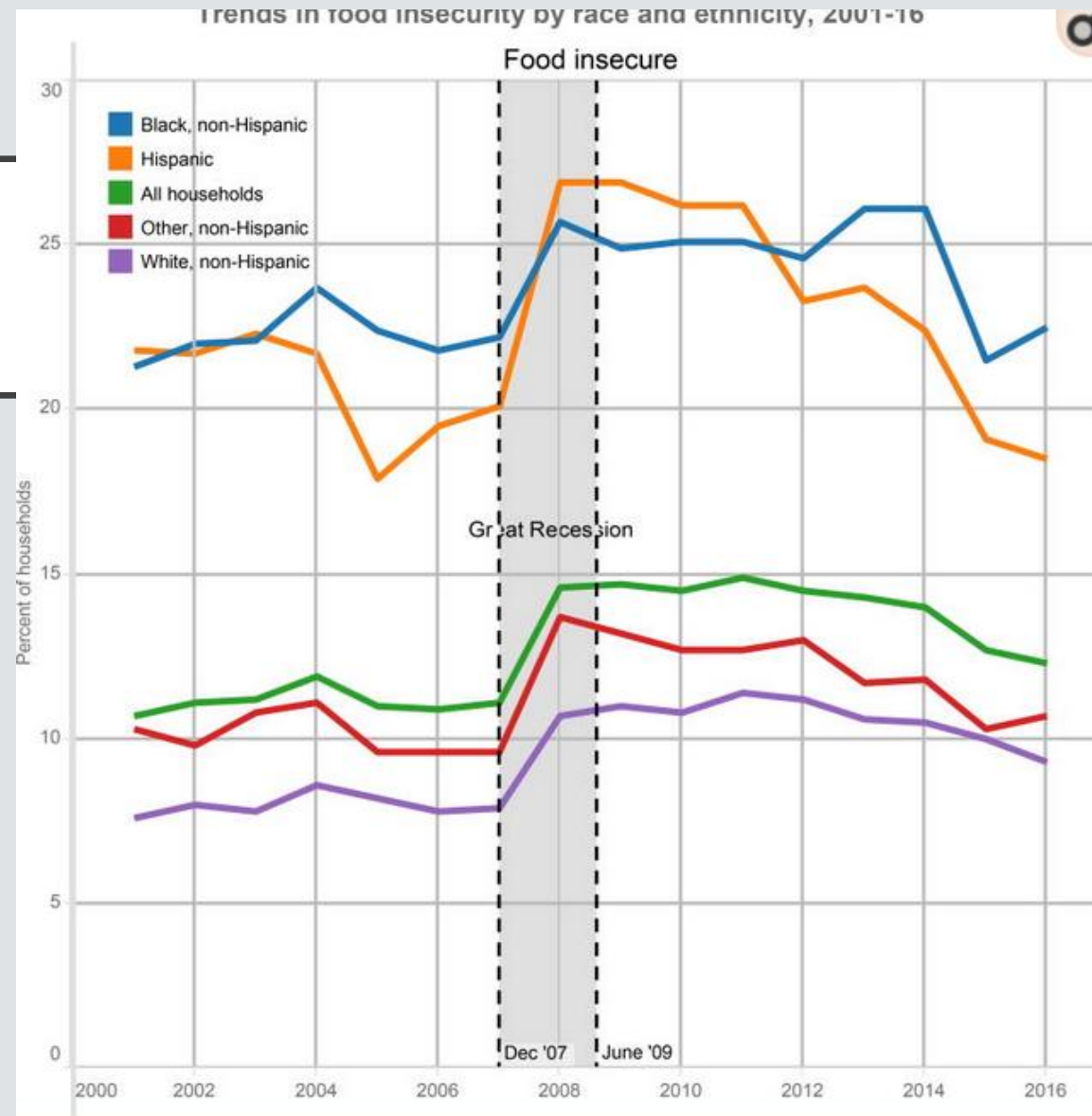


Figure 1

Source: Calculated by USDA, Economic Research Service, using Current Population Survey Food Security Supplement data. <https://www.ers.usda.gov/topics/food-nutrition-assistance/food-security-in-the-us/>

NUTRITION

How the fast-food industry courted African American customers

How the fast-food industry wooed black Americans.



In the 1990s, fast-food restaurants made a special effort to reach out to African American customers. (iStock)



By **Alex Park**

Alex Park is a writer and researcher in California. He's currently working on a book about the rise of the global fast food industry.

+ Add

Junk food ads disproportionately target black and Hispanic kids, study finds

Researchers find a growing disparity between ads targeted to white teens and those aimed at minority youth.

In the last two years alone Iowa farmers and landowners will have received public subsidies approaching over two billion dollars, not just in the usual crop insurance and farm program payments, but new crops of benefits in the form of market facilitation payments to compensate for trade wars and now Covid-19 payments to compensate for losses from low prices. The people receiving the payments – perhaps 200,000 farmers, family members, and landowners – are almost exclusively white. We have so few minority landowners in Iowa you could gather them in a bank basement. So where is the white privilege in this you ask? Well you can answer the question yourself – try explaining why society chose these citizens as worthy of this bounty of public welfare and not the mostly minority meat packing workers we demand stay on the job.

The answers are predictable – it is so we will have a stable food supply and plenty to eat, it is to keep the rural economy afloat, it is to make sure land prices don't collapse and trigger a farm crisis, and so farmers don't go out of business. There is some truth in all these and the good news is the public broadly supports helping farmers in times of economic stress like now. But do we really fear our nation will go hungry or believe farmland will go unplanted? The reason we choose to send them checks is because we have decided to privilege those who farm and own land rather than those who process our food.

NOW WHAT?



Oakland Avenue Urban Farm, which was founded in 2009, is one of three organizations that have raised more than \$50,000 in funds for Black farmers to own more land in Detroit. Jerry Hebron, the executive director, says the urban farm was created to reduce food insecurity and sits on one full block in Detroit. *Kimberly P. Mitchell, Detroit Free Press*

SEPTEMBER 21, 2020

"CAIN" SHORT OF THE WEEK

