



# FOOD SOVEREIGNTY, RACIAL EQUITY AND THE STATE OF BLACK FARMERS IN MICHIGAN

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# FOOD SOVEREIGNTY AND RACIAL EQUITY

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- **Food sovereignty**
  - Rights of people
  - Control all aspects of their own food and agriculture (e.g., access, availability, production, manufacturing, etc.)
- **Racial equity**
  - Quality of fairness that determines treatment, opportunities, access, and advancement regardless of racial identity
- **Change in paradigm**
  - **Deficit** Model (**what's the problem?**) to **Asset** Model (**what assets can be uplifted to empower?**)

# NARRATIVE FRAME

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## HISTORICALLY BLACK COLLEGE/ UNIVERSITY (HBCU)

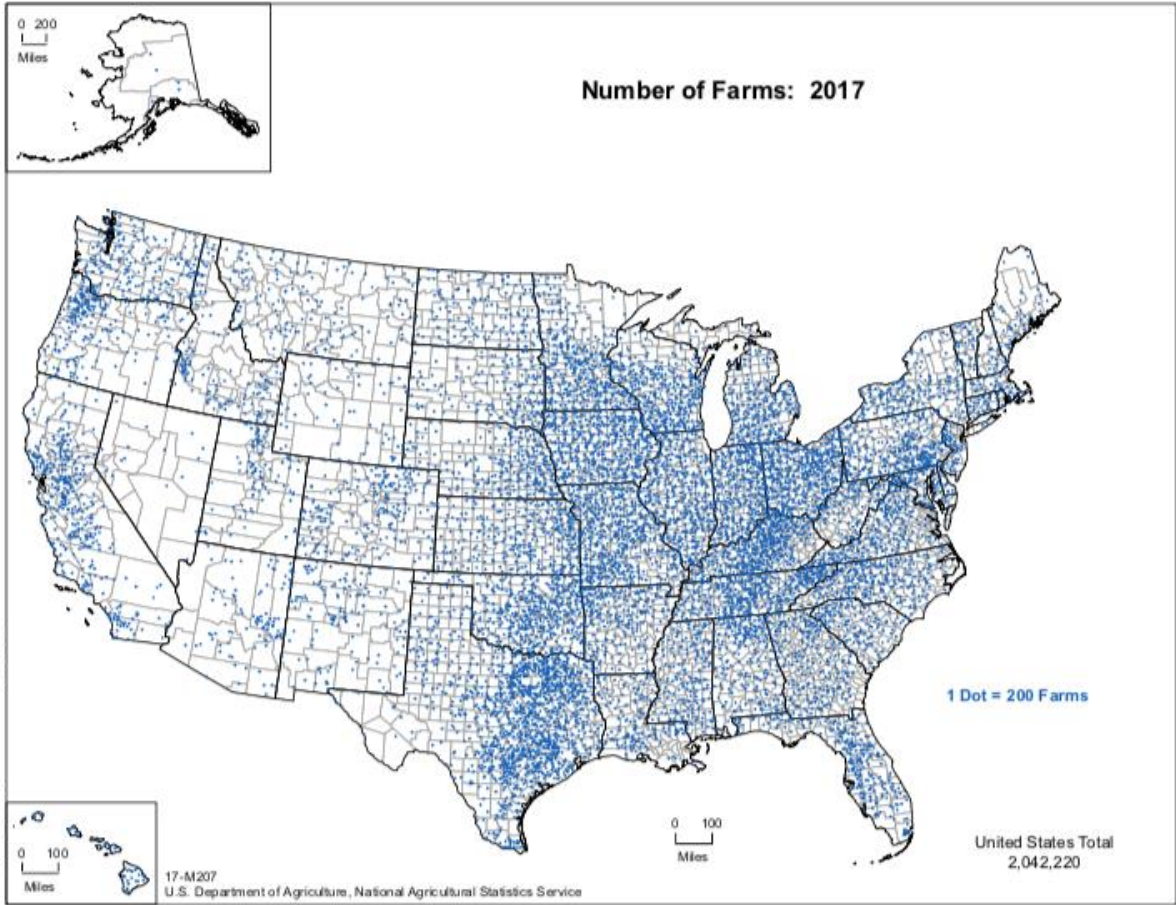


1890 Agricultural land-grant  
university



# FARMS IN MICHIGAN

47, 641 farms (9,764,090 acres) in Michigan



# FARMERS IN MICHIGAN

Race	Total No. Farms	Owned Land in Farms	Full Owners	Farms by Size (acres)	Farms By Classification
<b>White</b>	47, 156 (9,710,923 acres)	45, 141 (5,722,593 acres)	31, 831 (2,435,368 acres)	10 to 49: 16,720	Greenhouse, nursery, and floriculture production: 11,666
				500: 4,697	Sugarcane farming, hay farming and all other crop farming: 11,666
<b>Black</b>	<b>238</b> (20,290 acres)	<b>214</b> (11,352 acres)	<b>181</b> (8,884 acres)	10 to 49: <b>106</b>	Vegetable and melon: 47
				500: <b>5</b>	Fruit and tree nut : <b>45</b>

Source: 2017 Census of Agriculture, USDA National Agriculture Statistics Service



# MICHIGAN BLACK FARMERS: AREAS OF SUPPORT

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- **Access to**
  - affordable farmland, farm ownership
  - capital, risk management
  - educational resources and programs
- **Representation on key committees**
- **Attractiveness to younger Black generations**



**“Some people think money is power. I think power gets you money, and I think *land* is power. Go back to the land — they're not making anymore.”**

**- Barbara James Norman, 4<sup>th</sup> Generation Michigan Blueberry Farmer, Covert, MI (Van Buren County)**



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# THANK YOU

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