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**PRODUCER-LED RURAL INVESTMENT TO PROTECT OUR ENVIRONMENT (RIPE) GROWS STEERING COMMITTEE**  
**National Latino Farmers and Ranchers increases diversity of coalition building bipartisan climate policy focused on benefiting producers and the public**

WASHINGTON, Aug. 15, 2022 — [Rural Investment to Protect our Environment \(RIPE\)](#), a producer-led nonprofit advancing a unique, bipartisan climate policy plan that works for producers and the public, is proud to announce that [National Latino Farmers and Ranchers \(NLFR\)](#) recently joined its steering committee.

“We are always working to diversify the voices in the RIPE100 conversation to ensure that the policy and its principles will benefit as many producers as possible,” said RIPE Executive Director Aliza Drewes. “We are excited that NLFR has decided to join our steering committee to add the valuable and unique perspectives of its Latino and multiethnic members as we work together to shape a climate policy that gives producers a fair reward for conservation practices rather than cost-sharing.”



Through payments of \$100 per acre or animal unit for the first year then covering implementation costs, the RIPE100 plan would reward producers for the public value of their conservation practices, including reduced-till and no-till, cover crops, nutrient management and filter strips. In addition to greenhouse gas reduction, the voluntary federal program would pay for improved soil health, cleaner water, greater biodiversity and other environmental services. Instead of cost-share, payments would cover the full cost of practice adoption and help farmers and ranchers manage rising input costs.

NLFR provides policy advocacy, farm management and sustainability training, conservation best practices, and technical assistance that enables Latinos and multiethnic farmworkers, farmers and ranchers who have historically been discriminated against to transition and thrive in indigenous, regenerative and sustainable farming and ranching operations, while strengthening and safeguarding our national food supply system.

“We are eager to work with RIPE,” said National Latino Farmers and Ranchers Executive Director Rudy Arredondo. “This amazing partnership will allow us to grow as an organization, and offer better opportunities and resources to our historically underserved farmers, ranchers and producers. I’m certain this relationship will help our farmworkers, farmers and ranchers, and our network will expand nationwide.”

RIPE’s steering committee advises on producer engagement, contributes to policy design and makes recommendations on other opportunities that support the organization’s mission. Other steering committee organizations are Arkansas Rice Federation, Minnesota Farmers Union, Minnesota State Cattlemen’s Association, National Black Growers Council, National Sorghum Producers, North Dakota Farmers Union and North Dakota Grain Growers Association.

**About RIPE**

*Rural Investment to Protect our Environment (RIPE) is a producer-led nonprofit advancing a national bipartisan, comprehensive climate policy that invests in voluntary agricultural stewardship practices that*

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*provide a reasonable return to farmers and ranchers, and the public. Through \$100 per acre or animal unit payments for the first year and covering implementation costs after, the RIPE100 plan would reward producers for the public value of their conservation practices, including no-till and cover crops. In addition to climate change mitigation, the voluntary federal program would pay for improved soil health, cleaner water, greater biodiversity and other environmental services. For RIPE policy updates, position statements and more information, visit [RIPEroadmap.org](http://RIPEroadmap.org).*

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