

The Federation of Southern Cooperatives Land Assistance Fund

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Kathy Ozer: A long time colleague and supporter *We mourn her passing*

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ATLANTA: Kathy Ozer was a long time colleague, supporter and friend of the Federation of Southern Cooperatives/LAF.

We mourn her passing and send compassionate condolences to her family.

She began working with the Federation through the National Family Farm Coalition in the 1987 Ag Credit Act which helped farmers with restructuring USDA loans. She worked in support of the Federation's Black farmer members on all subsequent Farm Bill struggles.

Kathy, as Executive Director of the National Family Farm Coalition, together with the Rural Coalition, helped the Federation to strategize ways to implement our "Minority Farmers Rights Bill" which resulted in the passage of the 2501 Outreach and Technical Assistance Program in the 1990 Farm Bill, set-asides of funds in USDA credit, conservation and rural development programs for underserved African-American and other farmers of color across the nation. This work also resulted in the Minority Farm Registry, the receipt for service, a low documentation farm loan program (the FSA Micro Loan Program) and changes to NRCS EQIP which help many Black and other non-traditional farmers.

Kathy helped us in the many Agriculture Appropriations fights in Congress necessary to obtain a meaningful budget for the 2501 Outreach Program and other programs that helped thousands of farmers.

She was always kind, helpful and gracious in assisting the Federation to serve our member farmers and low income rural residents.

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