

BLACK LAND INITIATIVE

BLACK AUGUST

"Nobody's free until everybody's free."
— Fannie Lou Hamer

BLACK LAND & LIBERATION

During this month, it is important to recognize those who have dedicated their lives to defending our right to self-determination, land reparations, and rest.

Pictured below is New Communities Inc., the first Black Land Trust in the US formed outside of SNCC (left) and protesters who blocked the delivery of toxic PCB waste to landfill in Afton, NC, 1982 (right).

A BRIEF BLACK HISTORY OF COOPERATIVES

African Mutual Aid established by the African Methodist Church, Rhode Island

Women's Mutual Aid societies proliferate

1780 1787 1790

The Free African Society the 2nd African American mutual aid to open in the U.S.

The Colored Farmer's Association established in Texas in the mid 1870's

The National Ex-slave Mutual Relief & Pension Association advocating for reparations for ex-slaves in Tennessee.

1870's 1882 1896

The Negro Farmer's Alliance located in Prairie County, Arkansas

The Dawn Settlement founded by Josiah Henson, who escaped from enslavement in Ontario, Canada

The Wilberforce Colony a Black self-sustaining commune with livestock, land, and school in Ontario, Canada

1831 1837

The Combahee River Colony established by several hundred African American women during the Civil War, South Carolina, Sea Islands

Citizen's Cooperative Stores an African American cooperative meat market with 5 co-op stores

Bluefield Colored Institute profits fund scholarships for students to pursue higher education in West VA.

The North Carolina Mutual Insurance Company the largest state-based locally owned insurance company becomes the largest Negro-owned insurance in the world.

1919 1925

The People's Consumer Coop, Inc. established by the residents of the Rosenwald Apartments with the boycott of an exploitative store.

Morningside Heights Credit Unions 50% of members are African American & Puerto Rican in Harlem, NYC

1936 1944 1950

African American Credit Unions begin to expand throughout the state, North Carolina

Black Media Inc. a consortium of Black newspapers in the U.S. that provided advertising & other services for more than 100 newspapers

Cooperative Home Care Associates worker-owned home-care cooperative in South Bronx, NYC, majority members were Latina & African American

1966 1970's 1985

Black Panther Party organized "survival program pending political revolution" that include free breakfast & education programs for children. Families sponsored co-op housing and co-op bakeries.

Food from the 'hood student led co-op at Crenshaw High School that started a garden that gives to the poor & sells at a farmer's market with a multi year project to sell saled dressing made from produce from garden. By 2002, 77 members went to college using money earned from co-op in Crenshaw, Los Angeles

Mandela Grocery Co-Op opens as part of a strategy to address food insufficiency in the neighborhoods of Oakland, CA

Enim's Eco Clean house cleaning co-op begins as a project of Women's Action to Gain Economic Security in Redwood City, CA

1992 1999 2009

"Black August centers the political struggle, sacrifice and community healing work folks have done and are doing for liberated Black futures.

Originating in California following the death of brothers George and Johnathan Jackson, Black August was originally observed to honor the life and death of political prisoners and revolutionary trailblazers who have sacrificed for the advancement of Black people across borders.

Black August is a time to engage in what it takes to advance our struggle for self-determination and liberation; it is a crucial month when it comes to Black resistance, land defense, reparations, and prioritizing rest."

— Heal Food Alliance

Slides 1 & 2 are the work of @blacklandliberation
Slides 3 - 10 are the work of @thedeepgrocerycoop