

**Committee on Agriculture
U.S. House of Representatives
Information Required From Nongovernmental Witnesses**

House rules require nongovernmental witnesses to provide their resume or biographical sketch prior to testifying. If you do not have a resume or biographical sketch available, please complete this form.

1. **Name:** Julia Asherman
2. **Organization you represent:** Rag & Frass Farm LLC and the Middle GA Young Farmers Coalition (part of National Young Farmers Coalition)

Please list any occupational, employment, or work-related experience you have which add to your qualification to provide testimony before the Committee:

I have been farming full-time for the last 13 years. I am a first generation farmer who transplanted to the rural south, taught myself to farm and slowly built a small farm business from scratch. I purchased the land I farm on in 2017 with an FSA loan, after 7 years of farming as a tenant.

I am a self-taught farmer who started with only my home gardening background, common sense, and a lot of trial and error. I farmed as a tenant from 2009-2012 in Roberta, GA. It was a very steep learning curve, figuring it out on my own, using observation and research gave me a more solid foundation than I think any formal education could.

When that tenancy ended abruptly, I went to work for an established and large vegetable farm in Sylvania, GA. Here I refined my understanding of horticulture, and was exposed to a much larger scale of production and equipment.

In November 2012 I moved to Jeffersonville, GA to start Rag & Frass Farm, which I still operate today. In 2017 I purchased the property with an FSA loan. In 2018 my partner and I purchased the neighboring property with and Ag Georgia Farm Credit Loan. I have farmed fulltime with no off-farm income since the beginning, and now I employ 3 fulltime and two part time workers most of the year. I grow and sell year round at two farmers markets, sales on the farm, and through an online store. In 2021 I applied and received an FSA microloan to buy a new larger delivery vehicle.

I started my farm from scratch with very little, and built it to a working small business. I have taken advantage of the programs open to me, and I have experienced the challenges to making them work for me.

- 3. Please list any special training, education, or professional experience you have which add to your qualifications to provide testimony before the Committee: ____ please see attached sheet**

- 4. If you are appearing on behalf of an organization, please list the capacity in which you are representing that organization, including any offices or elected positions you hold:**

I am appearing on behalf of the National Young Farmers Coalition, which is have been a member of and a local chapter leader within (Middle GA Young Farmers) for several years. I have been both Secretary and then President of the Middle GA Chapter within the last 4 years.

PLEASE ATTACH THIS FORM OR YOUR BIOGRAPHY TO EACH COPY OF TESTIMONY.