



# Our Impact By the Numbers 2024

**Thanks to supporters like you, Toxic Free NC has been fighting for environmental justice and advocating for pesticide reform since 1986!**

## Advocating for safe and healthy food

Toxic Free NC helped farmers and consumers understand the connections between PFAS and agriculture, publishing a policy brief and leading a panel at the CFSA Sustainable Agriculture conference about risks of “forever chemical” contamination for farms. We fought for an equitable Farm Bill and policies that ensure a healthy food system for all.

## Victory for clean water!

Alongside state and national partners, we celebrated a long fought-for victory when EPA announced the first regulations of 6 PFAS “forever” chemicals in drinking water. The battle is far from over, but this was an important win for North Carolina, the state with the third highest rate of PFAS exposure in the country.



**34** workshops and events, 11 in Spanish, reaching 1100+ parents, farmers, farmworkers, and community members

**6** harmful “forever chemicals” were regulated by EPA in drinking water after years of advocacy!

**5** legal suits for clean water and polluter accountability

**29** Farmworkers and family members graduated from the second Environmental Justice Academy in Spanish

**5,000** dollars in rapid response support to impacted farmworker and farmer communities in Western NC after Hurricane Helene





28

Members of the Women of Color Farmers Network connected monthly to share skills and strengthen their farm businesses



88

Spray Free Zone yard signs in English and Spanish posted across NC to protect biodiversity



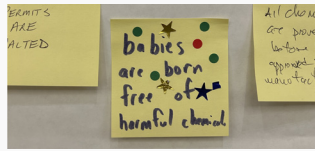
27

meetings with legislators and decision makers to lobby for reform



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Toxic Free “Free” Guide, published in English and Spanish, with tools and resources for protecting health



## Protecting communities from harmful chemicals

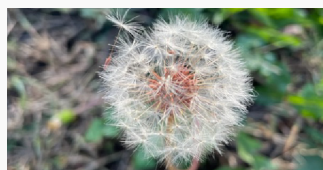
Toxic Free NC joined NC communities in holding polluter Chemours accountable and demanding strong, health-protective standards. We fought to ban toxic pesticides like paraquat, advocated for transparency, and raised the alarm about industry efforts to preempt community power. We celebrated when DCPA, a harmful herbicide, was permanently canceled—a victory for farmworker and maternal health.

## Protecting workers in a changing climate

Tragically, another NC farmworker died this year because of inadequate protections from heat. Toxic Free NC advocated for a proposed federal rule, collected worker stories, and held a press conference demanding Department of Labor action.

## Safeguarding biodiversity

We continued to sound the alarm on the ecological harms of pesticides. In partnership with Durham Bee City and New Hope Bird Alliance, Toxic Free NC hosted a webinar featuring NC bee veterinarian and scientist Elizabeth Hilborn, who authored a book about the devastating impacts of neonic-coated seed contamination on her farm.



## Environmental Justice Academy for farmworkers and families

In May, a second cohort graduated from the Environmental Justice Academy, a series of workshops in Spanish providing advocacy skills and training on climate and health issues impacting NC farmworkers.

We provided pesticide education and outreach at labor camps and community events, like the one above right in Wilson, NC, led by Eduardo Páez, who joined us in June as Farmworker Health and Justice Organizer.



## Women of Color Farmers Network

It was a year of learning and connection for the Women of Color Farmers Network, with 19 workshops on topics such as mushroom cultivation, storytelling for advocacy, business planning, marketing and branding, and much more. In November, we welcomed Farmer Afraka Yates of Old 30 Dirty Family Farm onto the team as Network Coordinator!



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