



GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

February 7th, 2018

3pm-5pm

PHS Town Hall, 100 N. 20th St.

Philadelphia, PA

ITEM	ACTION TAKEN	PAGE
A. CALL TO ORDER	Called to order at 3PM	2
B. ROLL CALL	Quorum Met	2
C. SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES		
1. Anti-Hunger	Discussed	3
2. Food & Health	Discussed	3-4
3. Good Food Procurement & Workforce & Economic Development		
	Discussed	4
4. Urban Agriculture	Discussed	4
5. Zero Waste	Discussed	5
D. VOTING ITEMS		
1. Approve December 2017 Minutes	Approved	5
E. MEMBERSHIP & GOVERNANCE UPDATE	Discussed	5
F. PUBLIC COMMENT	Discussed	5-6
G. FARM BILL 101 TRAINING	Conducted	6
H. ADJOURNMENT	Adjourned	6



A. CALL TO ORDER

Co-chairs Amanda Wagner and Esteban Kelly called the general meeting of the Philadelphia Food Policy Advisory Council (FPAC) to order. Meeting attendees introduced themselves.

B. ROLL CALL

Roll call indicated a quorum was present to conduct official business.

Members Present

Rickie Brawer	Kathy Fisher	Lisa Quattlebaum
Saleem Chapman	Esteban Kelly	Julianne Schrader Ortega
Kelly Courts	Linda Knapp	Carolina Torres
Noelle Dames	Nancy Kohn	Dwayne Wharton
Lan Dinh	George Matysik	Julie Zaebst
Stephanie Dorenbosch	Bridget Palombo	

Ex-Officio Members Present

Catherine Bartoli	Molly Riordan	Sarah Wu
Jo Lin	Amanda Wagner	

Others Present

Radika Bhaskar	Ricky Eller	John Taylor
Alex Boyd	Rachel Fifer	Justin Trezza
Dorothy Buttz	Robyn Herman	Lauren Vague Stager
Kim Cook	Jasper Jones Bey-El	Noelle Warford
Laura Crandall	Juanda Myles	Yen Yeam
Marcy Cuneo	Misha Rodriguez	
Cathy Davis	Linda Schneider	
Amelia Duffy-Tumas	Eric Sherman	

FPAC Staff Present

Hannah Chatterjee, FPAC Manager
Mary Pham, FPAC Coordinator



C. SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES

"New to FPAC" is a new speed-dating category introduced at the February 2018 general meeting. The purpose of this category is to engage with people attending FPAC meetings for the first time and provide the opportunity for long-time appointed and public members to answer questions and provide insights into FPAC work. Ex-officio member and Membership and Governance Chair Sarah Wu facilitated the group, as well as FPAC Coordinator Mary Pham and appointed member Kelly Courts.

1. Anti-Hunger

Anti-Hunger meets on the second Tuesday of the month from 2:30pm to 4pm at SHARE. For more information or to attend a meeting, please contact Co-chairs [Steveanna Wynn](#) and [Kathy Fisher](#).

2. Food & Health

FPAC member Dwayne Wharton led the update. There was no February meeting due the Eagles parade. In January, the subcommittee began to work on its 2018 policy priorities. Members are exploring nutrition standards for childcare facilities with the Philadelphia Department of Public Health. Shannon Dryden, Healthy Early Childhood Coordinator with Get Healthy Philly is scheduled to present at the March meeting.

Lauren Nocito, Director of Nutrition Education at the School District of Philadelphia (SDOP) is helping the subcommittee better understand the current landscape and opportunities for farm to school food programs for K-12 schools. The subcommittee is also interested in exploring the City's and SDOP's healthy vending policies and SDOP's Wellness Plan. Joy Ahn from the Philadelphia Nurse-Family Partnership is exploring policies that provide supportive environments for breastfeeding mothers in schools. Outreach to SDOP and examination of current policies is underway.

City Councilwoman Reynolds-Brown introduced a [bill](#) in support of creating a sodium warning label on restaurant menus for items over 2,300mg of sodium. No date for a testimony or a hearing has been set yet.

Thanks to subcommittee member Adrian Glass, Catherine Bartoli and MANNA's Healthy Food Procurement Coordinator will be speaking at the next meeting on opportunities to connect Philadelphia's Eds & Meds and food-related issues. The subcommittee will explore this local policy opportunity. The subcommittee is also drafting a letter of support advocating for the Healthy Food Finance Initiative at the state level.

Shana Jarvis of The Food Trust will present early findings on the of barriers to healthy produce sidewalk sales. Subcommittee member Michaela Kupfer has volunteered to work on this issue on behalf of the subcommittee. FPAC Coordinator Mary Pham participated on a recent webinar on predatory marketing



of unhealthy foods and sugar-sweetened beverages and will report back at the next meeting. Jasper Jones is interested in pursuing issues related to the safety of our food supply. He has been asked to provide research and draft a policy recommendation. Food & Health meets on the second Thursday of the month from 3:30pm to 5pm. For more information or to attend a meeting, contact Chair [Dwayne Wharton](#).

3. Good Food Procurement & Workforce & Economic Development

Co-chair Molly Riordan and ex-officio member Catherine Bartoli led the update. The Workforce & Economic Development subcommittee and Good Food Procurement subcommittee met and will continue to meet jointly for the coming months. The combined groups have launched a new project to assist local food industry employers in implementing fair labor practices, both those required by law and recommended by the industry. We encourage anyone interested in promoting fair treatment of Philadelphia food industry employees to join us the fourth Tuesday of the month at 3:30pm on the 9th floor of 1101 Market St., where we will each claim an area of research related to fair labor practices. This is a great opportunity to become an advocate and hone expertise on how we make our local food system fair to all. For more information or to attend a meeting, please contact Co-chairs [Catherine Bartoli](#) and [Molly Riordan](#).

4. Urban Agriculture

FPAC Manager Hannah Chatterjee led the update. The Urban Ag subcommittee is welcoming interest and nominations for new subcommittee chairs. Due to time constraints, Nancy Kohn will no longer chair the Urban Ag subcommittee, and Hannah Chatterjee and FPAC Coordinator Mary Pham will be temporary co-chairs. Anyone interested in chairing or who would like to nominate someone for the subcommittee chair position can reach out to [Hannah Chatterjee](#) and [Mary Pham](#) for more details.

The subcommittee was also briefed on the progress of the U.S. EPA Brownfields Assessment Grant. The Brownfields grant provides funds for Phase I and II site assessments on land for urban ag. Eight Philadelphia sites received a Phase I assessment and no gardens that were tested needed a Phase II. FPAC is looking for more gardens to sign up to be tested. If anyone is interested or know of organizations that may be interested in signing up, please share and complete this [form](#).

The Urban Ag Strategic Plan Working Group will review the draft RFP and provide feedback. The Urban Ag Subcommittee will no longer discuss the RFP at its meetings because it is a conflict of interest for those who may apply. The City will review the RFP after the Working Group. After feedback is finalized, the RFP will go through the procurement process and fundraising will begin.

The subcommittee meets on the last Wednesday of every month from 3:30pm to 5pm. For more information or to attend a meeting, please contact [Hannah Chatterjee](#) and [Mary Pham](#).



5. Zero Waste

FPAC member Linda Knapp led the update. The Zero Waste subcommittee reviewed its past activities for newcomers and provided updates on the Community Composting Design Competition. Zero Waste meets on the third Tuesday of the month from 4pm to 5pm. For more information or to attend a meeting, please contact [Linda Knapp](#).

D. Approve December 2017 Minutes

Motion by Esteban Kelly, seconded by Nancy Kohn, to approve the December 2017 minutes. Motion passed with none opposing and Kathy Fisher abstaining.

E. Membership and Governance Update, Sarah Wu

Ex-officio member Sarah Wu led the update. The Membership and Governance subcommittee oversees the distribution and analysis of FPAC's Annual Membership Survey. The survey helps FPAC improve its operations and processes, identifies expertise gaps in members' food systems knowledge and experience, and helps the subcommittee prioritize for member recruitment. The subcommittee releases the survey each year and reports the results in the summer.

This year, the survey will be released in February and the results will be presented at the April general meeting. The subcommittee decided to release the survey earlier than usual to better inform the FPAC appointed member nomination process. The membership survey is required, but confidential.

Sarah emphasized that FPAC appointed membership is not the only way for people to get involved. The subcommittee is exploring other ideas with a community organization mapping project. FPAC Coordinator Mary Pham will be interviewing FPAC appointed and ex-officio members to understand the existing relationships they have with other food organizations and community organizing groups. The goal of this project is to learn how FPAC can better interact with organizations that are already successfully organizing communities and make their voices heard, especially when they cannot be present at FPAC meetings. The results of these interviews will also help inform the FPAC appointed member nomination process.

F. Public Comment

The Anti-Hunger Subcommittee is hosting a Food Resources 101 with City Council, sponsored by Councilwoman Blondell Reynolds Brown's office. The date is to be determined.* The event will close with a resource fair where City Council constituent services staff pick up anti-hunger resource materials. Anyone is welcomed to provide materials for the resource fair. Drop-off locations include the FPAC office at 1515 Arch St., 13th floor and The Greater Philadelphia Hunger Coalition at 1725 Fairmount Ave. This is not a public event and space is limited. FPAC staff will circulate the sign-up sheet for the resource



fair to Anti-Hunger subcommittee members and FPAC appointed and ex-officio members. The Anti-Hunger briefing can serve as a potential model for other subcommittees to engage with City Council. For more information on the event, please email [Kathy Fisher](#) and [Steveanna Wynn](#). ***UPDATE: The Food Resources 101 has been rescheduled to Thursday, March 8th, from 12pm to 1:15pm.**

The Good Food for All Conference will be on Thursday, May 10th, from 10am to 3pm at the Free Library. 200 people usually attend the conference, with two-thirds attending for free if they volunteer or self identify as SNAP-eligible. If your organization works with clients who are interested in attending, the Coalition Against Hunger can reserve free tickets for your group and provide transportation. The Free Library is also providing 2 free tickets for SNAP-eligible individuals. The Coalition will release an RFP to help generate session ideas. FPAC will circulate the RFP to interested partners.

February is Environmental Justice Month and the 22nd anniversary of Executive Order 12898: Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations. Green Philly is hosting a discussion on Thursday, February 22nd from 5:30pm to 6:30pm at Saxbys' headquarters. The roundtable will focus on challenges people of color face when leading sustainability movements, and gender diversity across different sustainability sectors. Representatives from local government, philanthropy, nonprofit, and community groups will be attending.

G. Farm Bill 101 Training

The Farm Bill 101 Training was led by Dwayne Wharton (The Food Trust), Kathy Fisher (Coalition Against Hunger), Kimberly Cook (Young Farmers Coalition of Southeastern Pennsylvania), John Byrnes (PA State Extension), Hannah Chatterjee (FPAC), Lan Dinh (VietLead & Soil Generation), and Noelle Warford (UTC).

The topics covered in the training include a history of the Farm Bill and why it matters, SNAP statistics and hunger prevention policies, challenges facing young farmers, impacts to Penn State Extension programs and services, and opportunities for equity in the Farm Bill.

See slides attached.

H. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 5pm.

Submitted by:

Mary Pham, FPAC Coordinator

Mary.pham@phila.gov

The Farm Bill

History of the Farm Bill and Why it Matters

Dwayne Wharton, The Food Trust

SNAP & Preventing Hunger

Kathy Fisher, Coalition Against Hunger

Strong Farms and Healthy Food

Kimberly Cook, Young Farmers Coalition of Southeastern Pennsylvania

Research

John Byrnes, PA State Extension

Environment

Hannah Chatterjee, Philadelphia Food Policy Advisory Council

Equity

Lan Dinh, VietLead & Soil Generation

Regional Farm Bill Working Group, Report & Advocacy

Dwayne Wharton, The Food Trust

History of the Farm Bill and Why it Matters

Dwayne Wharton
Director of External Affairs
www.thefoodtrust.org



The Farm Bill: What Is It?

The primary agricultural and food policy tool of the federal government.

Comprehensive omnibus bill passed every 5 years by Congress.

Farm Bills includes 12 Titles impacting:

- Commodity Crops & Subsidies
- Crop Insurance
- Land Conservation
- Agricultural Research
- International Aid
- Nutrition
- Rural Development

The current farm bill, the Agricultural Act of 2014, funds farm programs through 2018.



It's like a Swiss Army Knife
- President Barack Obama

History of the Farm Bill

The first farm bill, known as the Agriculture Adjustment Act (AAA), was passed by Congress in 1933 as a part of Franklin D. Roosevelt's New Deal.

The bill allowed farmers to receive payment for not growing food on a percentage of their land as allocated by the United States Secretary of Agriculture.

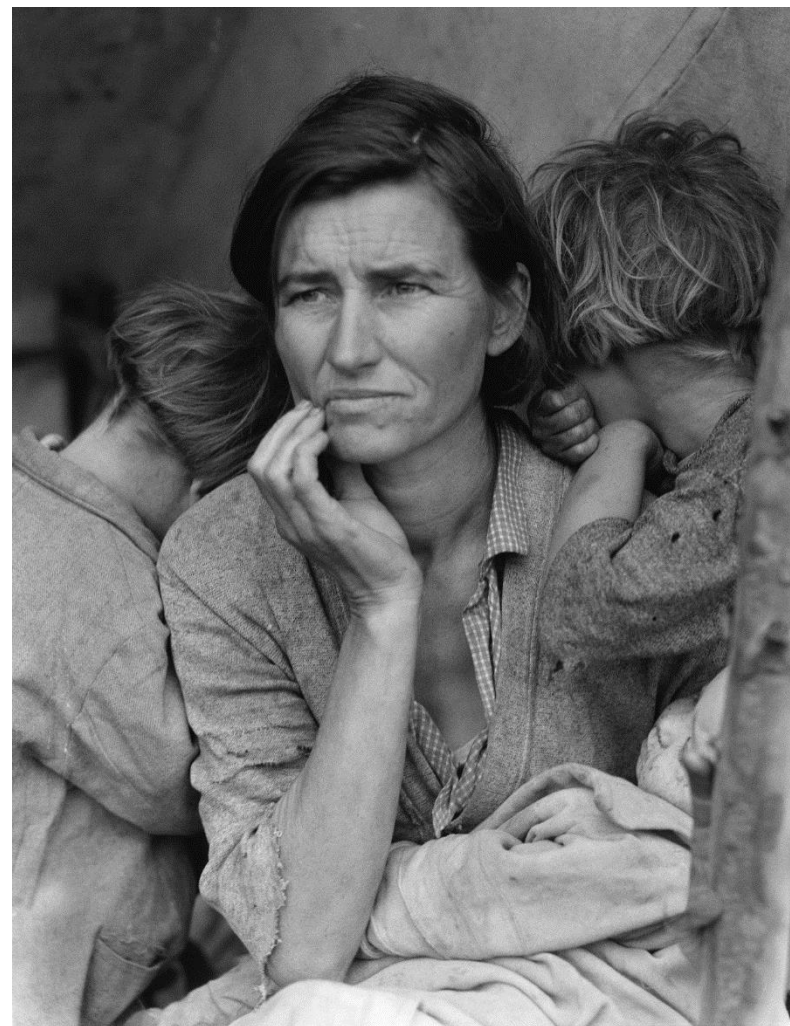


History of the Farm Bill

The first farm bill, also enabled the government to buy excess grain from farmers, which could then be sold later if bad weather or other circumstances negatively affected output.

The AAA also included a nutrition program, the precursor to food stamps.

Today, the Farm Bill effects virtually all Americans & plays a role in how food in the United States makes it from the farm to our tables.



Farm Bill 2018 SNAP Advocacy

Kathy Fisher
Policy Director
www.hungercoalition.org

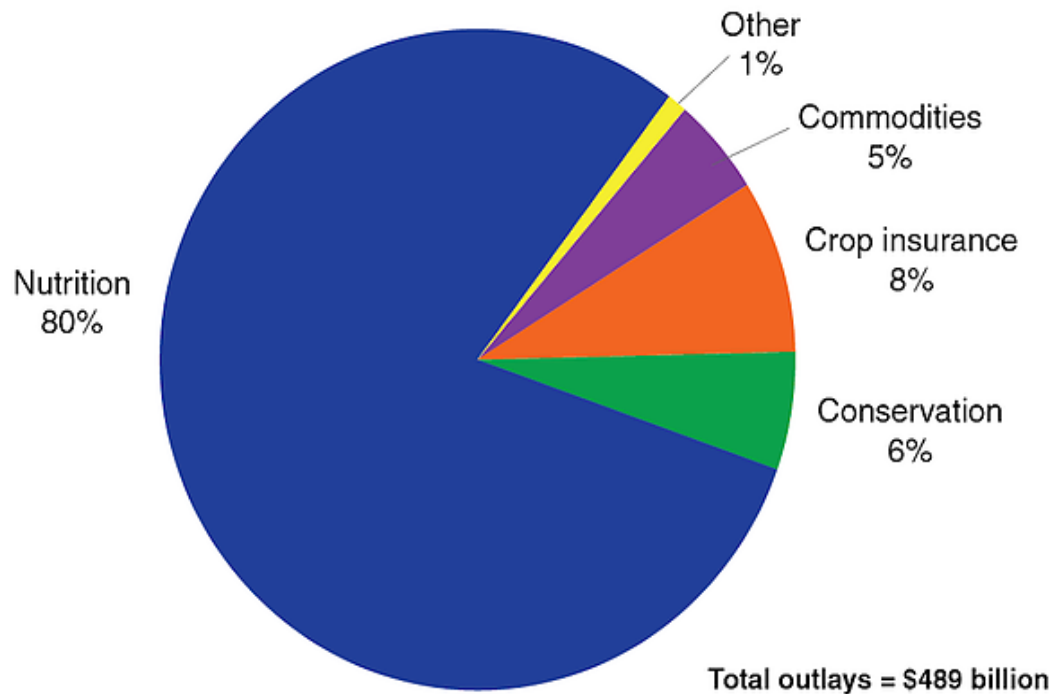


Nutrition Title – Programs Overview

- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
- Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP)
- The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP)
- Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR)
- Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program
- Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program
- Food Insecurity Nutrition Incentive (FINI)
- Food and Agriculture Service Learning Program

Largest Nutrition Program = SNAP

Projected outlays under the 2014 Farm Act, 2014-2018



Source: USDA Economic Research Service using data from Congressional Budget Office, Cost Estimates for the Agricultural Act of 2014, Jan 2014.

- SNAP served 42.1 million Americans in FY2017 (down from 47.6 million in FY2013)
- SNAP spending was \$68 billion in FY 2017 (down from \$79.9 billion in FY 2013)
- The program has 96.8% accuracy, with only 1% suspected to be fraudulent

SNAP Directly Responds to Hunger

- SNAP helps over 670,000 individuals put food on the table in the SEPA region *(DHS data, Dec. 2017)*

Bucks	37,774
Chester	25,421
Delaware	71,273
Montgomery	51,292
Philadelphia	486,278

- SNAP provides over \$86 million *per month* in the region for those struggling to make ends meet purchase food *(DHS data, Dec. 2017)*

Bucks	\$4,546,689
Chester	\$2,968,243
Delaware	\$8,851,973
Montgomery	\$6,300,574
Philadelphia	\$63,978,301

- Over 3,500 retailers in the region accept SNAP
- Each dollar of SNAP generates an estimated \$1.70 economic activity
- This “multiplier” effect means SNAP provides \$146 million per month to the region’s economy

SNAP Facts



Over 1/2 of SNAP recipients leave the program within 1 year



in savings

on healthcare per senior enrolled



18%

more likely to graduate

Children who received SNAP are 18% more likely to graduate high school than their peers who did not receive SNAP.



SNAP Facts



**SNAP provides 10 times
more meals than food banks**

1/4

children

**SNAP reaches 1 in 4
children nationally**



2/3

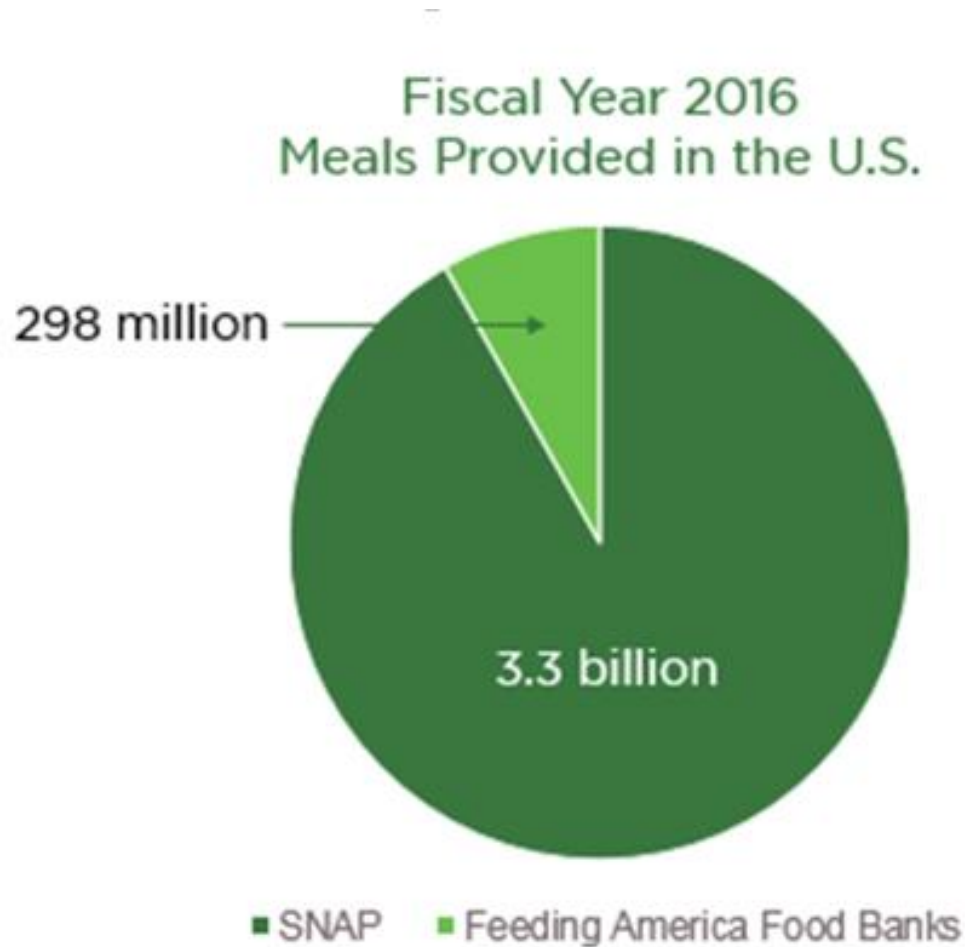
of SNAP participants

**are children, seniors, or people
with disabilities. The majority
of others are working.**



**The average SNAP
benefits per meal**

Charity can't make up for funding cuts



- SNAP provides over ten times as many meals as Feeding America's network of food banks across the country.
- If a program like SNAP is cut by even 10%, they would need to double or triple services just to keep up.

Cuts to SNAP in the Farm Bill are not the only Threats to Food Security at National Level

Dec. 2017 Tax Bill ---> Deficit Increase --> Pressure to Cut Spending
Congressional leaders have indicated plans for “Welfare Reform,” which is another way of saying cuts to safety net programs, like SNAP.

SNAP cuts could come in Farm Bill, welfare reform, or other legislation later in the year. Possible damaging changes include:

- Creating work requirements and/or eliminating geographic waivers for current work rules
- Changing the structure of SNAP or other nutrition programs (such as “Block” or “Opportunity” grants)
- Reducing funding for SNAP and other nutrition programs
- Ending ACA/drastic changes to Medicaid (higher health costs = less \$ for food)



Latest Information

On the House side:

- Ag. Committee Chairman Conaway wants to move a bill quickly; aim is for first week of Feb.
- Different versions of the bill have been sent to CBO for scoring
- NO details on what is included in the bill have been publicly shared, but there are rumors he may be considering doing away with geographic waivers for ABAWDs

On the Senate side:

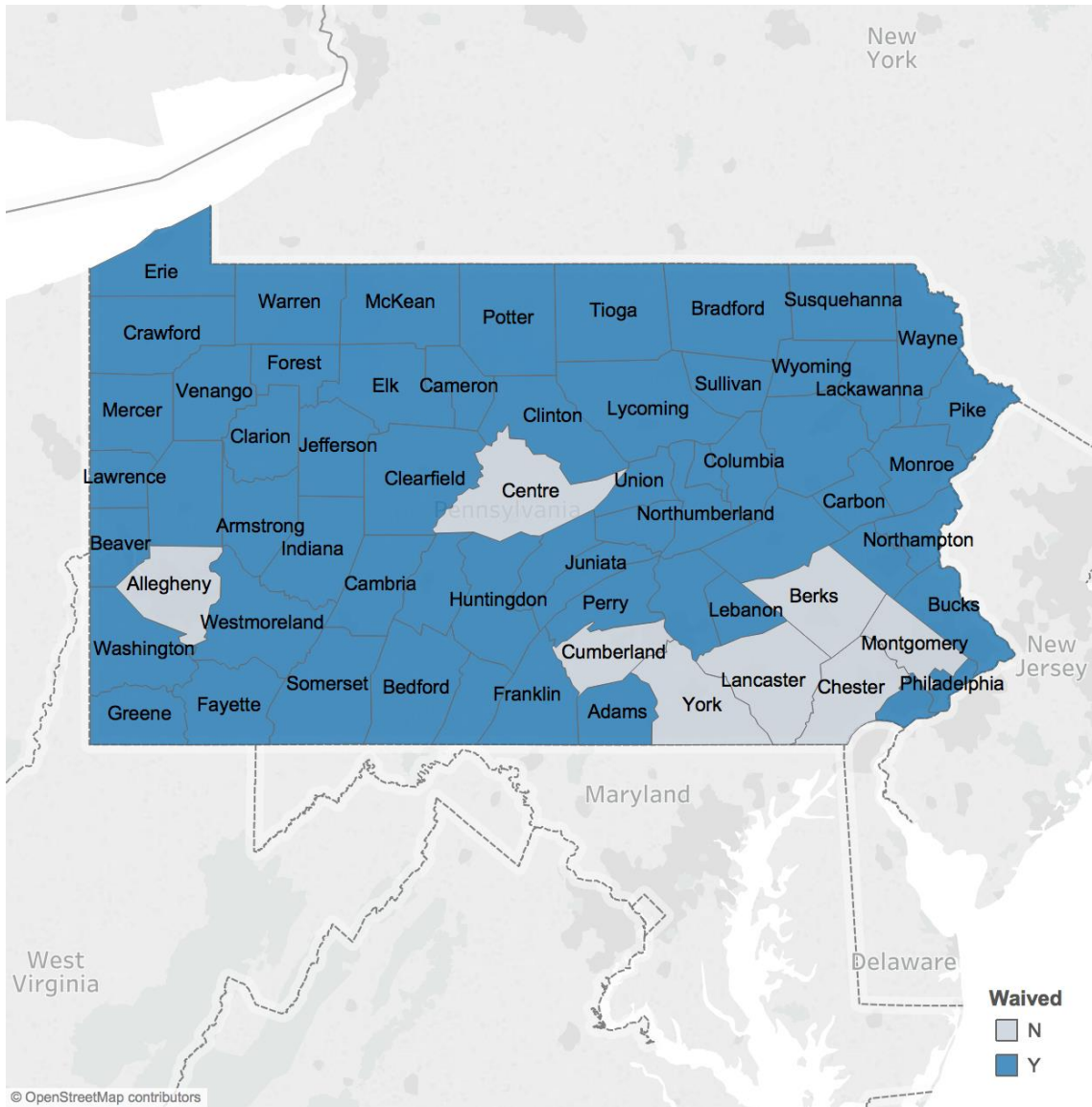
- Chairman Grassley has said it is his intent to get the Farm Bill done “on time,” which simply means this budget year

We need to:

- Continue to educate our federal elected officials and the public
- Be prepared to act quickly once the House bill is released

“ABAWDs”

Able-bodied Adults (age 18-49) without dependents (a child in the household)



ABAWDs are limited to 3 months of SNAP benefits in a 3 year (36 month) period unless they:

- Work or participate in a work program at least 20 hours per week (averaged monthly)
- Are in school or training at least half-time
- Qualify for a medical “exemption”
- Volunteer or perform community service for 26 hours per month
- Live in an area that is “waived” due to high unemployment

ABAWDs loss of SNAP = Devastating

- In our region, the ABAWDs rule already applies in Bucks, Chester, and Montgomery counties
- Statewide, nearly 20,000 persons lost benefits from June, 2016- March, 2017, approximately 3,200 in SEPA
- In Delaware and Philadelphia counties, there are nearly 45,000 persons who are considered ABAWDs
- Even if the vast majority qualify are able to
 - Meet work requirements, or,
 - Qualify for exemptions
- Thousands would still lose SNAP benefits



No SNAP Cuts Message

Help us deliver a NO SNAP CUTS message to our Congressional Representatives!

Find your elected officials at:

<https://hungercoalition.salsalabs.org/findyourlegislator>

Call your Rep. and say: *“I urge Congressman _____ to stand up for those who get enough to eat because of SNAP. I urge him to oppose any legislation that cuts SNAP benefits and limits who is eligible for food assistance.”*

Also, sign our “No SNAP Cuts” petition at:

www.hungercoalition.org/advocacy



Threats to SNAP at the State Level

On Jan. 2, House Republicans held a press conference announcing their intent to pursue a package of 20 pieces of “welfare reform” legislation in 2018. Bills relating to SNAP that have been introduced so far include:

HB 1659 – which would:

- Impose a statewide 3-month time limit on SNAP for ABAWDs, by preventing the Governor from seeking geographic waivers
- Require *parents, except single parents of children under age 12*, to participate in work activities and prove that they are doing so
- Would not include Job Search as a work activity

HB 1559 which would:

- Require mothers (custodial parents) to pursue child support against the children’s father (non-custodial parents) as a condition of receiving SNAP
- Jeopardize many families existing informal child support arrangements
- Increase court cases – and costs, which would be borne 100% by Pennsylvania taxpayers.

Additional Bad Bills

HB 1788 would

- Limit Pennsylvanians to 48 months on TANF cash assistance (unlike the current 60 months)
- Eliminate extensions to the time limit now available for hardship reasons

HB 1988 would

- Create a pilot program in Luzerne County, whereby TANF moms would work 40 hours a week for an employer but only be paid for 20 hours a week (but get to keep their TANF benefits)

Based on the initial announcement, more bad bills will be coming.

Sign up for our e-alerts at:

<http://www.hungercoalition.org/advocacy>

Farm Bill and Strong Local Farms

Kimberly Cook, Young Farmers Coalition of
Southeastern Pennsylvania

<https://www.facebook.com/youngfarmerspa/>



NYFC Mission & Farm Bill

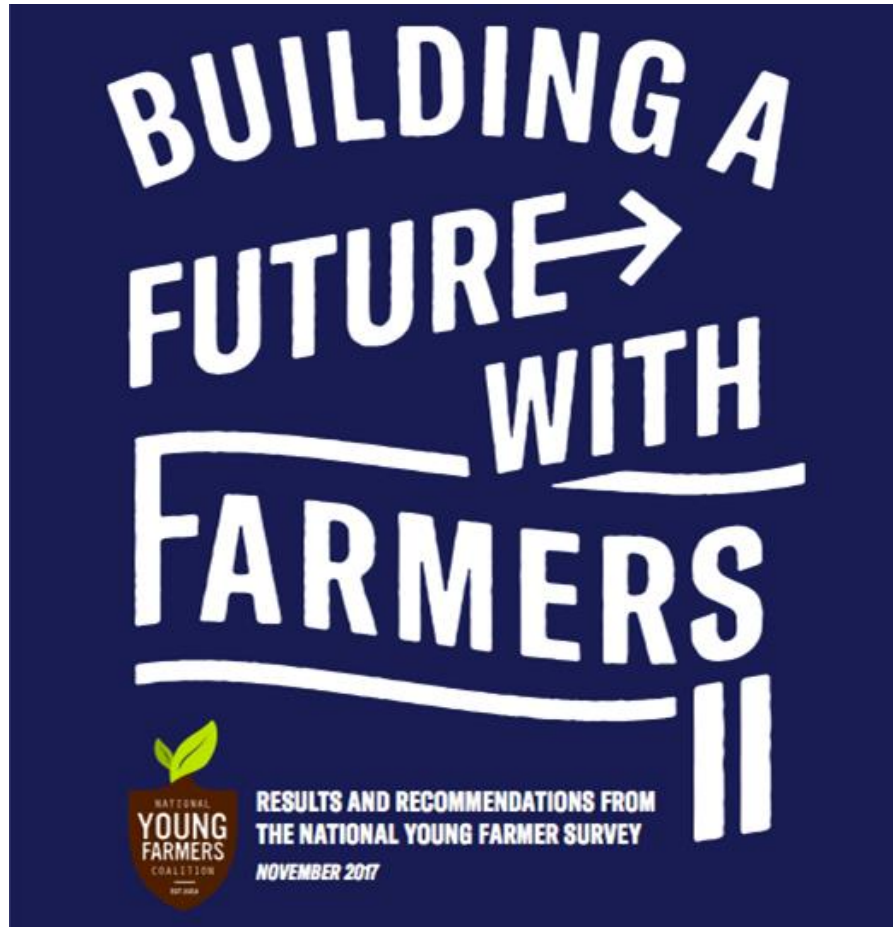
NYFC represents, mobilizes, and engages young farmers to ensure their success.

From national to local:

- YFC of SEPA hosts social events
- meets with local representatives,
- collaborations with other farms and organizations



What Do Young Farmers Look Like?



- NYFC surveyed 3,517 past, current, and aspiring farmers
- Most highly educated and diverse generation yet
- Smaller scale and more diversified operations
- More likely to use sustainable practices

Biggest Challenges Young Farmers Face



ACCESS TO LAND

Secure land tenure is a fundamental component of a viable farm business. Land access is the top challenge cited by current farmers, aspiring farmers, and those who have stopped farming. In this survey, 39% of respondents who are current farmers cited land access as a significant challenge, with 17% calling it the most significant challenge they face. Both first-generation and multigenerational farmers cited land access as their top challenge.



STUDENT LOAN DEBT

Among current farmers, 29% called their student loan debt a significant challenge, with 10% citing it as the most significant one. Farming is a capital-intensive undertaking, and accessing credit for farming is already difficult. Addled with thousands of dollars of student loan debt, many young farmers have been denied loans to launch or grow their farm businesses.



LABOR

The shortfall of skilled farm labor is affecting young farmers as well as the general farm community. Thirty percent of respondents cited labor as a significant challenge, with 10% citing it as their biggest challenge.



HEALTH INSURANCE

Farming is a dangerous, physically strenuous occupation. For young farmers, many of whom are in the early years of starting and growing their farm business and their families, lack of affordable health insurance puts them, their families, and their businesses at significant risk. Nearly half of respondents cited health care as a significant challenge, and 8% said it was their most significant challenge.

The Young and Beginning Farmers Act (H.R. 4201)

- Improve access to affordable farmland
 - Create more flexibility within the Agriculture Conservation Easement Program (ACEP) to allow land trusts to protect farmland more quickly
 - Protect affordability of conserved farmland
 - Reform Direct Farm Ownership loans to keep pace with land prices
 - Allow beginning farmers to pre-qualify for Farm Service Agency (FSA) loans
- Improve ease of reaching federal farm bill programs
 - Develop an online self-service portal for farmers to access, apply for, and implement USDA programs and services
 - Establish USDA Beginning Farmer Coordinators in each state
- Improve opportunities for training, mentorship, and business development
 - Reauthorize and establish mandatory baseline funding for the Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program (BFRDP)
 - Fund Individual Development Accounts (IDA) to help young farmers save for their businesses
 - Provide mandatory baseline funding for the farmers market and local food promotion program (FMLFPP) to increase local market opportunities

Important Items For All Farmers

- Regional food systems by supporting farmers markets, food hubs, and small and mid-sized farmers, both rural and urban
- Farmers Market Nutrition Program
 - Allows WIC/senior users to use benefits at farmers markets
- Community Food Project Grant program
 - “...designed to increase food security in communities by bringing the whole food system together to assess strengths, establish linkages, and create systems that improve the self-reliance of community members over their food needs.” - USDA website
- Funding for farmers of “Specialty Crops”
 - All fruit, vegetable, tree nuts, dried fruit, flower producers

The Farm Bill & Research

John Byrnes Ph.D., R.D.
Program Manager
Penn State Extension
www.extension.psu.edu



**PennState
Extension**

Penn State Center Philadelphia
675 Sansom Street
Philadelphia, PA 19106

Penn State Programs & Farm Bill Impact

Nutrition Links

4-H

Master Gardeners

Fairmount Park Demonstration
Gardens



Penn State Services & Farm Bill Impact

Technical assistance

High tunnel
maintenance and data
collection

Growers Series

Summer internships



Penn State Services & Farm Bill Impact

Urban farmers market
trainings

WAgN

Research and Events



The Farm Bill & The Environment

Hannah Chatterjee

Philadelphia Food Policy Advisory
Council Manager

www.phillyfpac.org



PHILADELPHIA
FOOD POLICY
ADVISORY COUNCIL

The Farm Bill & The Environment

The Farm Bill funds national conservation programs that are important to effective, voluntary, farm-level conservation practices that provide benefits to rural and urban areas. These programs are administered by the USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and the Farm Service Agency (FSA).

PROGRAMS: Through financial and technical assistance, these programs help farmers implement conservation practices that contribute to a sustainable business.

- Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP-NRCS) **
- Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP-NRCS)
- Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP – NRCS)
- Conservation Reserve Program (CRP – FSA)

How to See if You are Eligible

- Call local NRCS office:
(484) 786-7300
- Call local FSA Office:
(215) 453-9527

Opportunities for Equity in the Farm Bill

Lan Dinh

Farm and Food Sovereignty Director

Resilient Roots Farm, VietLead &

Soil Generation

<http://www.groundedinphilly.org/soil-generation-about/>



S O I L
G E N E R A T I O N

Equity: an understanding & acknowledgement of historical and ongoing inequalities and a commitment to actions challenging those.



The farming system of the United States is built upon structural racial inequity.



The farming system of the United States is built upon structural racial inequity.

- **1999 *Pigford v. Glickman*** lawsuit filed on behalf of African-American Farmers was the largest civil rights settlement in history.
- **1999 *Keepseagle v. Vilsack*** lawsuit filed on behalf of Native American farmers for unlawful discrimination against them in the USDA's farm loan programs.
- **2000 *Love v. Vilsack*** lawsuit filed on behalf of women farmers for gender discrimination in the administration of the USDA's farm loan programs.
- **2000 *Garcia v. Vilsack*** lawsuit filed on behalf of Hispanic farmers for unlawful systematic discrimination against them regarding credit transitions and disaster benefits.



Farm Bill Recommendations

Restore funding to help socially disadvantaged farmers to capitalize on opportunities to start and manage farming businesses.

- In the 2008 Farm Bill, Congress provided \$75 million in mandatory funding for the [Outreach and Assistance for Socially Disadvantaged and Veteran Farmers and Ranchers Program](#).
- The 2014 Farm Bill cut mandatory funding for the program, from \$20 million to \$10 million per year.

Increase participation by farmers of color in working lands conservation programs.

- Previous farm bills have included special incentives to improve access to conservation programs for socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers, including funding set-asides and increased cost-share rates within both the [Conservation Stewardship Program](#) (CSP) and the [Environmental Quality Incentives Program](#) (EQIP).
- Farmers of color are often less likely to have the resources needed to invest in conservation on their farms, and should be a priority for funding.
- Include urban gardens/farms in recognition of their environmental benefits like, enhancing ecosystem services and guarding the public trust.



Sankofa Farm

Create Opportunities for Socially Disadvantaged Farmers

Ensure Farm Service Agency (FSA) loans remain available to socially disadvantaged farmers by opposing increases on loan limits

- Current debate in Congress about whether or not to raise these loan limits in the next farm bill, which would ultimately mean fewer but larger loans.
- Providing POC led community food security+sovereignty work with credit & tax breaks.

Secure permanent funding to continue training the next generation of farmers

- The [Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program](#) (BFRDP) is the only federal program that is explicitly dedicated to training the next generation of farmers and ranchers, and includes a dedicated funding priority for projects that train socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers.
- It is set to expire this year with the expiration of the current farm bill.



Norris Square Neighborhood

Equity Must Be At The Center of Everything

Create a dedicated position, information clearinghouse, and technical assistance within USDA to support producers engaged in urban agriculture.

- Make grants like [Community Food Project](#) program more accessible to urban agricultural producers and offer urban-based extension locations for in-person meetings and grant assistance.
- There is an urban agriculture liaison position at USDA as a good first step but USDA must also make a firm and concerted effort to promote urban agricultural enterprises.
- Include urban farmers in the USDA farming census as a unique category and provide technical support.
- More aggressively funding POC led community food security+sovereignty work.

SNAP/WIC: Expand healthy, sustainable, culturally appropriate options within these programs. Make SNAP more flexible to support the economic viability of urban growers.



Resilient Roots Farm

Beyond The Farm Bill

Land Justice

- Establish a commission to study reparations and propose a comprehensive redistribution of wealth and land.
- Investment in security of land (via Community land trusts, conservation easements and so forth), actively work against displacement by providing resources and legal support.



Urban Tree Connection

Philly Regional Farm Bill Working Group

American Heart Association
Campbell Soup Company
Center for Hunger-Free Communities
Central PA Food Bank
City of Philadelphia Dept of Health
Coalition Against Hunger
Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission
Enterprise Center
Feeding PA
Food Policy Advisory Coalition
Fresh Grocer
Greener Partners
Healthy Food for Healthy Kids DE
Lankenau Medical Center (Main Line Health)

Mayor's Office of Community Empowerment and Opportunity
National Young Farmers Coalition.
PA Horticultural Society
Penn Environment
Penn State Extension
Philabundance
Philly Urban Creators
Propel
Reading Terminal Market
SHARE
Soil Generation
The Food Trust
University of Pennsylvania
Uplift Solutions
Urban Tree Connection
Vietlead

Report from Philadelphia Regional Farm Bill Working Group

Introductory Paragraph: Why the Farm Bill Matters:

SNAP (Food Stamps) and Preventing Hunger

- # of families in Greater Philadelphia and # of dollars
- SNAP is foundational to the health and economy of our region, and cuts would increase hunger and malnutrition and have ripple effects that impact everyone.
- No cuts, no Block Grants, No Structural Changes
- Emergency Food - TEFAP
- Farm Bill Perspective: Witness to Hunger & Coalition Against Hunger

Healthy Food

- Community Food Project Grants – need more resources to grow the urban farming movement.
- Support Fruit and Vegetable Farmers
- FINI – Make healthy food more affordable
- Educating Consumers and Driving demand with SNAP-Ed
- Farmers' Markets and local food systems– FMNP, FMPP, LFPP Promotion
- Farm to School
- Farm Bill Perspective: Root Mass Farm, Oley, PA

Jobs

- HFFI – the new USDA program to support grocery stores, farmers' markets and food Hubs that improve access and create jobs in underserved urban and rural areas.
- Grow jobs through urban farms
- Food Hubs, and distribution and processing for local food systems
- Farm Bill Perspective: Carly Spross, Fresh Grocer

Equity

- Support for socially disadvantaged farmers including farmers of color, immigrants, refugees, veterans, and youth.
- Addressing access to healthy food and health disparities
- Farm Bill Perspective: Soil Generation

The Environment

- Support for Environmental Protection and Conservation programs, and Sustainable Agriculture

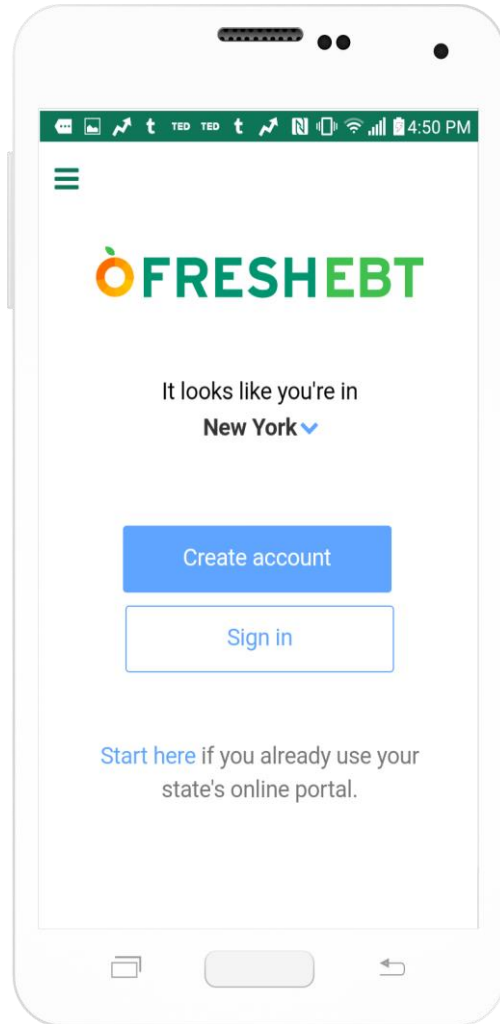
Research

- Support for Extension
- Research on urban farms – needs, challenges, benefits (esp w/r to accessing capital and USDA funding streams) and best practices.
- Investment in technology

Conclusion

- Ending paragraph stress impacts on our region and potential to grow jobs, improve health, reduce climate change, expand opportunities for small urban and rural farmers and create a more equitable food and farming system.

Public Advocacy Effort



1. Visit www.freshEBT.com
2. Zipcode: 19119
3. Tap “Sign in”
4. Login with user ID ebt0 and password ebt000

Save The Date: Farm Bill Public Forum

Philadelphia & The Farm Bill

Tuesday, March 6th

5:30pm-7pm

PA Convention Center



The Food Trust

