The Farm Bill, Hunger, and Nutrition

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EVERYONE DESERVES ACCESS TO HEALTH FOODS

"HUNGER IS NOT AN ISSUE OF CHARITY. IT IS AN ISSUE OF JUSTICE."

INVEST IN OUR COMMUNITY
My goal for today’s presentation…

• Outline what’s at stake in the Farm Bill for food and nutrition programs;
• Introduce the impact of SNAP/CalFresh;
• Demystify the Farm Bill re-authorization process;
• Introduce key Farm Bill policymakers;
• Review where we are in the Farm Bill process;
• Review action steps you can take;
• Provide resources to support your actions!
What is the Farm Bill

1. Federal legislation that governs agriculture and nutrition policy in America

2. Sets the policies that bring food from our farms and ranches to our stores and homes

3. Farm Bill must be reauthorized every five years, including by September 30, 2018
Hearings and listening sessions in Washington, D.C., and across the country for Members of Congress to hear from the public

The House Agriculture Committee drafts and passes a bill. The bill is considered by the full House, which debates the bill, considers amendments and votes. *(Could be May 14\textsuperscript{th})*

The Senate Agriculture Committee also drafts and passes a bill *(now)*, which is considered and voted on by the full Senate.

A conference committee allows the House and Senate to come together on a compromise.

Final bill passed by House and Senate

Signed into law (or vetoed) by the president
Nutrition is a Major Component

- Nutrition - $756.43 billion
- Crop Insurance - $89.83 billion
- Conservation - $57.60 billion
- Commodity Programs - $44.46 billion
- Trade - $3.70 billion
- Misc. - $2.30 billion
- Credit - $2.24 billion
- Horticulture - $1.76 billion
- Research and Extension - $1.26 billion
- Energy - $1.12 billion
- Rural Development - $0.24 billion
- Forestry - $0.01 billion

2014 US FARM BILL SPENDING

$956.47 billion over 10 years
The Farm Bill and SNAP (CalFresh)

1. This national program helps struggling families and workers put healthy food on their tables.

2. Roughly 41 million Americans, including 4 million Californians, participate in SNAP / CalFresh.

3. In California, CalFresh kept more than 800,000 people out of poverty - including over 400,000 children each year from 2009-12.
What happened last time?

2014 Farm Bill Nutrition Title Highlights

House proposed $40 billion in cuts, final bill cut Nutrition Title by $8 billion

Clarified and changed some SNAP eligibility rules (Deductions, lottery winners, “Heat & Eat”)

Testing innovative strategies to connect SNAP recipients to Employment & Training programs

Improving Access to Healthy Food (Retailer stocking standards, delivery to homebound participants, Community Supported Agriculture)

SNAP Outreach rules: billboards, prohibition on foreign governments and “recruitment”

SNAP-Ed, FINI grants, Community Food Projects, TEFAP, Emergency Food Assistance, SFMNP
Educating Stakeholders: Why is CalFresh/SNAP important?

1. Reduces hunger and poverty
2. Improves health and learning
3. Supports rural communities and local economies
4. Increases productivity
5. Creates jobs
6. Invests in the future of our communities
Who will make the difference?

U.S. Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition & Forestry

21-member committee,
No California Senators currently on the committee

Chairman: Pat Roberts (R-KS)

Ranking Member: Debbie Stabenow (D-MI)
Who will make the difference?

U.S. House Committee on Agriculture

Rep. Doug LaMalfa (CA-01, Richvale)

Rep. Jeff Denham (CA-10, Modesto)

Rep. Jim Costa (CA-16, Fresno)

Rep. Jimmy Panetta (CA-20, Salinas)

Chairman: K. Michael Conaway (R-TX)

Ranking Member: Collin C. Peterson (D-MN)
Key CA Farm Bill and SNAP Power-Brokers

Rep. Doug LaMalfa (CA-01, Richvale)

Washington DC Office
(202) 225-3076

Auburn District Office
(530) 878-5035

Richvale District Office
(530) 534-7100

Oroville District Office
(530) 223-5898
Key CA Farm Bill and SNAP Power-Brokers

Rep. Jeff Denham (CA-10, Modesto)
Washington DC Office
(202) 225-4540
Modesto District Office
(209) 579-5458
Key CA Farm Bill and SNAP Power-Brokers

Rep. Jim Costa
(CA-16, Fresno)
Washington DC Office
(202) 225-3341
Fresno District Office
(559) 495-1620
Merced District Office
(209) 384-1620
Key CA Farm Bill and SNAP Power-Brokers

Rep. Jimmy Panetta
(CA-20, Salinas)

Washington DC Office
(202) 225-2861

Salinas District Office
(831) 424-2229

Santa Cruz District Office
(209) 831-429-1976
Where are we in the Farm Bill Reauthorization Process?

1. Hearings and listening sessions in Washington, D.C., and across the country for Members of Congress to hear from the public.

2. The House Agriculture Committee drafts and passes a bill. The bill is considered by the full House, which debates the bill, considers amendments and votes. (Could be May 14th)

3. The Senate Agriculture Committee also drafts and passes a bill (now), which is considered and voted on by the full Senate.

4. A conference committee allows the House and Senate to come together on a compromise.

5. Final bill passed by House and Senate.

6. Signed into law (or vetoed) by the president.
What was included in the Conaway Proposal (HR 2) related to SNAP/CalFresh?

- Eliminates **Categorical Eligibility** (important in CA)

- Cuts food assistance for CalFresh households who also need help meeting their high utility costs. (important in CA)

- Cuts off food assistance after one month for individuals between age 18 and 60, including households with children over age 6, if they can't meet a 20 hour per week **work requirements**. Takes away funding for food benefits and instead uses it to **underfund** new employment and training programs with little or no proven track record of success in connecting CalFresh recipients with meaningful employment. (important everywhere)
“Budget Neutral” bill (focus on the benefit cuts)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>CBO 10-Year Cost Estimate</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SNAP benefit cuts</td>
<td>-$23.1 billion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SNAP benefit improvements</td>
<td>$5.8 billion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New administrative costs and work programs</td>
<td>$15.0 billion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SNAP benefit delivery, and other program changes</td>
<td>-$0.6 billion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-SNAP grants</td>
<td>$2.8 billion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Nutrition Title*</td>
<td>$0 billion</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

See Table 3 for more detail. Details do not add to total because of rounding.

* Title IV total including $463m in direct spending and $465m in increased revenue.


(- $23.1) + ($5.8) = - 17.3 billion in food cuts to low-income households

Center on Budget and Policy Priorities: https://www.cbpp.org/research/chairman-conaways-farm-bill-would-increase-food-insecurity-and-hardship
Categorical Eligibility

Categorical Eligibility Works for CA!

- Raises gross income limit
  - Helps working households with high household expenses (rent)
  - Smooths out “Benefit Cliff”
  - Encourages work!

Removes asset/resource test
- Can accrue modest savings
- Can own a reliable car to get to work

Cuts connection to free school meals
- Hurts students and schools
- Community Eligibility Provision

Saves administrative costs!
Heat and Eat Works for CA!

Helps low-income households with out-of-pocket utility costs (350K)

- Increases benefits by $62/mo avg
- Reduces hassle/paperwork
- Saves administrative costs!

HR 2 is a step backward

- Increases hassle for households and administrators
- Benefits will be cut ($5.3 billion)
Unworkable Requirements

SNAP already has harsh work requirements
• 3-month time limit for ABAWDs
• States can impose mandatory work requirements

HR 2 greatly expands who would be subject to requirements
• 9 million people
• Age 18-59
• Parents with kids over age 6
• Restricts waivers in areas of high unemployment

Extreme penalties for not complying
• First time not meeting – 1 year ban (!)
• Second time not meeting – 3 year ban (!!!)
Unworkable Requirements

Expanded work programs are **not** adequate to meet new demand

- **Underfunded**
  - $30 per work slot/month compared to CalWORKS ($400/mo)
  - Programs that have track record of success > $1,000/mo

- **Untested**
  - 2014 Farm Bill funded 10 pilots.
  - Why not use the evaluation results to inform new programs?

- **Unworkable**
  - Low-wage workers have little control or extra time
  - LAANE study – 44% of PT employees’ hours cut 10 hours/week
  - Transportation and child care barriers
  - Muse prove compliance every month or lose food assistance
What can YOU do?

Lend your voice!

1. Participate in an in-district visit with your Representative to advocate or provide policymaker education.

2. Call, email, send a letter, and/or tweet to your Representative (and Senators!) to share your concerns about cuts to SNAP.

3. Reach out to local partners throughout your district and encourage them to get involved in advocacy.

4. Write a Letter to the Editor or a Op-Ed on the farm bill and pitch to local newspapers.

5. Encourage local leaders to speak up on social media and in public events in opposition.

6. Consider organizing a local advocacy event.
Congressional District Fact Sheets

Representative Denham’s District

Includes parts of San Joaquin and Stanislaus Counties

13% of households in your district depend on CalFresh to put food on the table
Congressional District Fact Sheets

Representative Costa’s District

Includes Fresno, Merced Counties

27% of households in your district depend on CalFresh to put food on the table
Resources

CFPA Federal Advocacy and CalFresh Resources

• cfpa.net/farmbill
• cfpa.net/federal-advocacy
• CFPA Nutrition Action Alerts (cfpa.net/subscribe)

National Partners

Center on Budget and Policy Priorities (CBPP.org)
• ThisIsSNAP.org

Food Research and Action Center (FRAC) (frac.org)
Thank You

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Sign up for CFPA Nutrition Action Alerts at cfpa.net/subscribe