Nutrition Priorities for the 2012 Farm Bill

The undersigned organizations offer the following recommendations to improve nutrition and health and to increase access to affordable, nutritious food, particularly for vulnerable populations including children, seniors, and low-income families and individuals. While our organizations have specific missions and farm bill priorities, we are guided by three shared principles that shape our collective priorities. The farm bill must: I) protect against hunger; II) improve nutrition and health outcomes among vulnerable populations; and III) strengthen community-based initiatives that link farmers with consumers and increase access to healthy food.

Protect against hunger by ensuring adequate resources for federal nutrition assistance programs and emergency food providers.

- Protect eligibility, benefit levels, and program integrity of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) to ensure that low-income Americans have the resources necessary to afford a nutritious diet and prevent hunger.
- Ensure adequate supply of nutritious commodities for distribution through emergency food providers by increasing mandatory commodities provided by The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) and maintaining authorized funding levels for TEFAP storage and distribution.
- Maintain Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP) authorization at current levels and focus program on improving nutrition for low-income seniors by transitioning CSFP to a seniors-only program, with grandfathered protection for women, infants, and children currently enrolled.
- Provide a tax credit to farmers to incentivize earlier donation of high quality produce to food banks for distribution through the charitable food system.

Improve nutrition and health outcomes for vulnerable populations by increasing consumption of fruits, vegetables and other healthy foods.

- Maintain current funding for SNAP Nutrition Education to help low-income Americans make healthy choices on a limited budget, reduce their risk of chronic disease and obesity, and optimize the SNAP benefit.
- Maintain current funding for the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program and protect the integrity of the program to ensure that low-income elementary students have a fresh fruit or vegetable snack at school every day.
- Provide grants for SNAP incentive programs to increase the purchase and consumption of fruits and vegetables at farmers markets and other healthy food retailers.
- Strengthen SNAP national vendor standards to improve availability of healthy foods while balancing adequate access to retailer outlets.
- Maintain funding for the National Institute of Food and Agriculture for vital research on nutrition, hunger and food security, and obesity prevention.

Strengthen community-based nutrition initiatives that link farmers with consumers and increase access to healthy food to reduce food insecurity, improve nutrition, and promote self-reliance, economic development and job creation.

- Ensure funding for existing farmers’ market, community food, and agriculture marketing and food hub development programs to improve outcomes and efficiency, meet demand, and maximize impact.
- Increase mandatory funding for Community Food Projects to improve nutrition and food security among low-income individuals and communities.
- Provide SNAP EBT point of sale devices to farmers markets, farm stands, green carts and other non-traditional healthy food retailers to improve access and increase consumption of fruits and vegetables.

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Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics
American Academy of Pediatrics
American Commodity Distribution Association
American Farmland Trust
American Heart Association
American Public Health Association
American Society for Nutrition
Asian & Pacific Islander American Health Forum
Association of Jewish Family & Children’s Agencies
Association of SNAP-Ed Nutrition Networks and Other Implementing Agencies
Association of State & Territorial Public Health Nutrition Directors
Bread for the World
California Association of Nutrition & Activity Programs
California Food and Justice Coalition
California Food Policy Advocates
California Public Health Association-North
Campaign for Better Nutrition
Catholic Charities USA
Center for Science in the Public Interest
Church of the Brethren
Community Food Security Coalition
Community Health Councils
Congressional Hunger Center
Defeat Diabetes Foundation
Disciples Home Missions, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada
Disciples Justice Action Network
Earth Day Network
End Hunger Network
Environmental Working Group
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

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Fair Food Network
Farm Sanctuary
Farmers Market Coalition
Feeding America
FGE Food & Nutrition Team
First Focus Campaign for Children
Food & Water Watch
Green For All
HealthyPlanet
Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy
Jewish Council for Public Affairs
Johns Hopkins Center for a Livable Future
League of United Latin American Citizens
Liberty Prairie Foundation
MAZON: A Jewish Response to Hunger
Meals on Wheels Association of America
Mennonite Central Committee U.S. Washington Office
Missouri Association of Local Public Health Agencies
National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd
National Association of County and City Health Officials
National Association of Nutrition and Aging Services Programs
National Association of States United for Aging and Disabilities
National Commodity Supplemental Food Program Association
National Congress of Black Women, Inc.
National Consumers League
National Council of Jewish Women
National Council on Aging
National Family Farm Coalition
National Farm to School Network
National Farmers Union
National Hispanic Medical Association

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National Immigration Law Center
National Latina Institute for Reproductive Health
National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty
National Network of Public Health Institutes
National WIC Association
NETWORK, A National Catholic Social Justice Lobby
North Carolina Alliance for Health
Partnership for Prevention
Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine
Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Office of Public Witness
Public Health Institute
Public Health Law and Policy
RESULTS
Save the Children
School Food FOCUS National Office
School Nutrition Association
Shape Up America!
Share Our Strength
Society for Nutrition Education and Behavior
Society of St. Andrew
The Alliance to End Hunger
The Center for Communications, Health & the Environment
The National Center on Family Homelessness
The South Carolina Eat Smart, Move More Coalition
The United Church of Christ, Justice and Witness Ministries
Trust for America’s Health
Union for Reform Judaism
United Fresh Produce Association
Upstream Public Health
Voices for America’s Children
Wholesome Wave

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