FROM 2008 FARM BILL AND CHILD NUTRITION REAUTHORIZATION TO THE NEXT FOOD & FARM BILL:

HOW LOCAL ACTION CAN CREATE HEALTHIER FOOD ENVIRONMENTS?
Keys to strengthening federal food and farm policy in next Farm Bill

- Understand budget and politics of the next Farm Bill
- Support new administrative initiatives for local and regional food systems
- Build on critical precedents in the last CNR and 2008 Farm Bill
- Join multi-sector coalitions in cities and states behind common messages
Views on the present situation...

**Half Empty**
- Highest levels of hunger and obesity
- Rise of rural and urban food deserts
- Record enrollment in federal food programs
- Political challenges to address healthy food access

**Half Full**
- Scaling up of innovations
- Implementation of last FB/CNR policy
- Powerful new cross-sector coalitions and partnerships
- “Food federalism”: administration thinks and works differently
Bridging sectors for linked policy

- Collaborations between sectors at city, county and state levels, matched with new federal collaboration at the agency level
- Integration of human and environmental health in food and agriculture
- Linking market systems (direct, retail and wholesale) to public food systems (nutrition programs)
- Implementing new school food nutrition and procurement standards (from CNR and Farm Bill)
## Titles in the 2008 Farm Bill

I. Commodity Programs  
II. Conservation  
III. Trade  
IV. Nutrition  
V. Credit  
VI. Rural Development  
VII. Research and Related Matters  
VIII. Forestry  
IX. Energy  
X. Horticulture and Organic Agriculture  
XI. Livestock  
XII. Crop Insurance and Disaster Assistance  
XIII. Commodity Futures  
XIV. Miscellaneous  
XV. Trade and Tax Provisions
Farm programs account for about 22 percent of Farm Act budget allocations.

FY 2008-17

- Nutrition: 68%
- Commodities: 12%
- Crop insurance: 10%
- Conservation: 9%
- Other: 1%

Nutrition safety net ¾ of spending?

- 43, 210,878 US citizens were enrolled in the SNAP program in 2010 and CBO projects the nutrition program outlays in the Farm Bill to grow from 68% to over 75% in next 10 years, or....

- Latest CBO projections with revised unemployment estimates for SNAP are nearly $700 billion over 10 years from 2010 to 2019

- Commodity, Conservation and other titles are not projected to grow nearly as much as nutrition programs

- Projected pressure to cut all Farm Bill entitlement programs in nutrition, commodity and conservation titles
Stakeholders

Traditional Farm Bill Communities
- Farm/Industry
- Anti-hunger
- Conservation
- Nutrition Education
- Research and extension

Newly Engaged Communities
- Health community
- Good food communities
- Local and regional governments

Practice to Policy    T. Forster
Impacts of 2008 Farm Bill on food access and regional food systems

- **Innovation and block grants, technical assistance programs**
  - Fruit and Vegetable Snack, Specialty Crop Block Grants Community Food Projects, Healthy Urban Food Enterprise,

- **Critically needed research linking food access and production**
  - Food Desert Study, Organic Research and Extension Initiative

- **Market rule and food standards changes:**
  - Geographic Preferences for school food purchase
  - New food based nutrition standards in Child Nutrition Programs

- **Policy Reform of existing programs**
  - Rural Development business and industry loans

- **Protecting small and catalytic programs that benefit consumers health and farmers economic viability**
  - Healthy food provisions of last Farm Bill

http://www.farmland.org/programs/farm-bill/analysis/localfoodpolicy.asp

Practice to Policy  T. Forster
Procurement policy case study: changes may take more than one Farm Bill cycle

- 2002 and 2008 Farm Bills
  - Flexibility to use geographic preferences across child nutrition programs
- 2004 and 2010 CNR Bills
  - Farm to School Grant Program authorized and funded
- 2010 USDA draft rule on use of geographic preferences for minimally processed foods
  - Allows all regions to extend the season for local and regional sources of food
- 2012 Farm Bill extension of geographic preferences
  - In other procurement programs of USDA – or to add other health related criteria to procurement bids and contracts

For more information see [www.schoolfoodfocus.org](http://www.schoolfoodfocus.org), [www.farmtoschool.org](http://www.farmtoschool.org) or [www.onetray.org](http://www.onetray.org)
Why cities should care about farming

- Politics of the Farm Bill make it essential (especially in terms of the Agriculture committees of the House and Senate) to bring the urban voice to Congress.
- While urban votes pass every Farm Bill, most federal policy important to rural America is in the Farm Bill – farmers need to be first.
- The next Farm Bill will be tougher than any other to pass because of record costs of nutrition programs and intense pressure to cut entitlement programs.

Practice to Policy  T. Forster
Building on 2008 Farm Bill coalitions

- **Last Farm Bill**
  - City/state governments, and public health community played an important role advocating for small but critical programs to local food environment

- **Next Farm Bill**
  - Health interests, good food movement and local authorities must share messages with traditional stakeholders to advance rural and urban interests on the Agriculture Committees
Strategies useful to city/regions

- **Last Farm Bill**
  - USCM, NACO and NCSL had similar positions on geographic preferences, specialty crops and other health related issues

- **Next Farm Bill**
  - these and other stakeholder groups can have broader shared messages – picked up in parallel media campaigns

- **Example**: trade and professional associations of health and planning departments in city, county and state governments share common priorities for healthy food
What does Philadelphia and Pennsylvania need from the next Farm Bill?