

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

## HOW LOCAL ACTION CAN CREATE HEALTHIER FOOD ENVIRONMENTS?



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Presentation to Greater Philadelphia Food System Stakeholder Committee by Thomas Forster

# 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

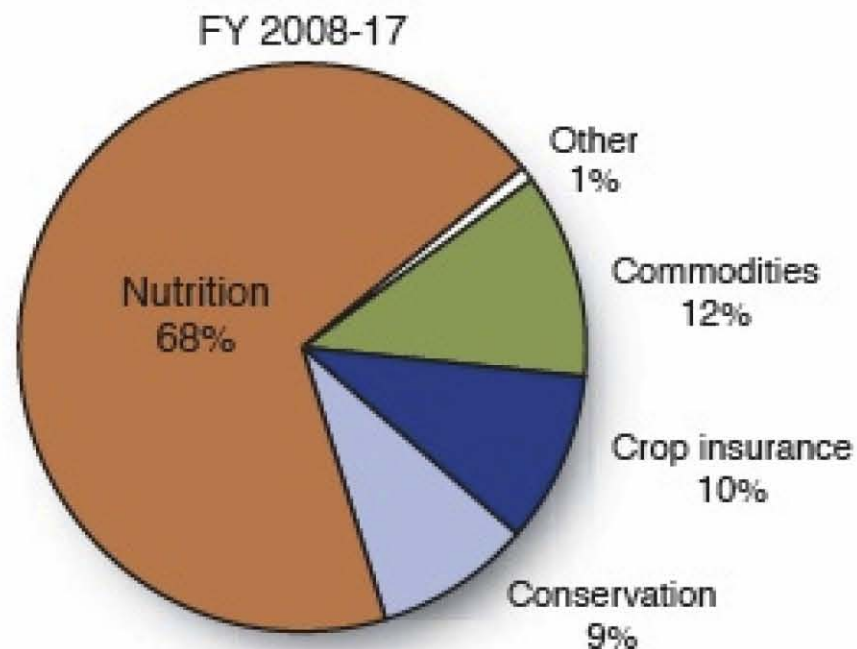
- *Collaborations between sectors at city, county and state levels, matched with new federal collaboration at the agency level*
- *Integration of human and environmental health in food and agriculture*
- *Linking market systems (direct, retail and wholesale) to public food systems (nutrition programs)*
- *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

# CBO projected USDA program outlays

## Farm programs account for about 22 percent of Farm Act budget allocations



Source: USDA, Economic Research Service using Congressional Budget Office estimates.

# Nutrition safety net $\frac{3}{4}$ 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



# 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>

# 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.farmentoschool.org](http://www.farmentoschool.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

# 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?

