Food, Health and Equity: Delivering on What Communities Want:

BUILDING LOCAL HEALTH AND EQUITY THROUGH FEDERAL FOOD AND AGRICULTURE POLICY

American Public Health Association Annual Meeting
New Orleans, Louisiana
November 2014
CORE ELEMENTS OF
FARM to SCHOOL

EDUCATION

SCHOOL GARDENS

PROCUREMENT

National Farm to School Network – Growing Stronger Together
National Farm to School Network is a hub for:

Information  Networking  Advocacy

Connecting people to:

Resources  People  Policy
NFSN Regional Lead Agencies

- **Northeast**, VT FEED – Shelburne Farms
- **Mid-Atlantic**, The Food Trust
- **South**, Southern Sustainable Agriculture Working Group
- **Southeast**, Appalachian Sustainable Agriculture Project
- **Great Lakes**, University of Wisconsin – CIAS
- **Midwest**, National Center for Appropriate Technology

**Southwest**, Farm to Table/Southwest Marketing Network

**West**, Ecotrust
Why farm to school?

Kids WIN  Farmers WIN  Communities WIN
THE BENEFITS OF FARM TO SCHOOL
NFSN’s Signature Events

7TH NATIONAL
FARM TO CAFETERIA CONFERENCE
AUSTIN, TEXAS | APRIL 15-18, 2014

October
is
NATIONAL
FARM TO SCHOOL
MONTH
The Policy Process

- Concept
- Authorization
- Evaluation
- Appropriations
- Implementation
Child Nutrition Reauthorization

• Reauthorization of the Child Nutrition Act is abbreviated as CNR: Child Nutrition Reauthorization

• Includes federal school meal and child nutrition programs

• Current bill (the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010) expires on September 30, 2015

• Authorizing committees:
  – Senate Committee for Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry
  – House Education and the Workforce Committee
CNR Background and History

- 1946  School lunch program
- 1966  Expands school lunch, adds breakfast
- 1972  WIC pilot established
- 1992  WIC Farmers Market Nutrition Program
- 1994  Dietary Guidelines for Americans
- 2010  Nutrition standards and Farm to School Grant Program

photo credit: USDA Farm to School
CNR Programs

- National School Lunch Program (NSLP)
  - Farm to School Grant Program
- School Breakfast Program (SBP)
- Summer Food Service Program (SFSP)
- Afterschool Snack and Meals Program
- Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP)
- Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)
  - WIC Farmers Market Nutrition Program (WIC FMNP)
CNR 2010

• New nutrition standards, and more money for school lunches

• Support for USDA Farm to School Grants
  – Provides $5 million in annual mandatory funding
  – First two years of the program (FY13 and FY14):
    • 139 grants awarded (718 applications)
    • 15,200 schools involved
    • 4.55 million students reached
Farm Bill

- Current bill is the Agricultural Act of 2014

- Nearly 80% of the bill’s cost is for SNAP

- Authorizing committees:
  - Senate Committee for Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry
  - House Agriculture Committee

Source: ERS.
Local Farms, Food, and Jobs Act

- Local Farms, Food, and Jobs Act ("marker bill" for the farm bill)
- Endorsed by over 300 organizations
- Provisions included:
  - Farmers Market and Local Food Promotion Program
  - Food Insecurity Nutrition Incentives (FINI)
Partners and Coalitions

- National Alliance for Nutrition and Activity (NANA) Coalition, convened by Center for Science in the Public Interest
- Food Policy Working Group, convened by Feeding America, Bread for the World, and Public Health Institute
- Child Nutrition Forum, convened by Food Research and Action Center (FRAC)
- Getting Our Act Together on the Farm Bill (GOAT), convened by Rural Coalition and Community Food Justice Coalition
- Good Food for All collaborative, convened by Union of Concerned Scientists
State Farm to School Policy

STATE FARM TO SCHOOL LEGISLATIVE SURVEY: 2002-2013

JANUARY 2014
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