

ACTIONS TO USHER IN A BETTER FUTURE FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE:

5. Support Local and Regional Food Systems



As we rein in the power held by industrial agricultural corporations, we must simultaneously build a support system for farmers, ranchers, workers, and communities creating an accessible avenue for diverse independent businesses to become a prosperous, integral part of the agrifood supply chain. Through food production and consumption arrangements that root producers and consumers in place, we can reduce society's dependence on dominant agrifood firms, and build a brighter, more resilient agrifood system.

SUPPORT EXISTING LEGISLATION

- Farm System Reform Act - (116th: H.R.6718/S.3221)
- Strengthening Local Processing Act - (116th: H.R.7868/S.5066)
- Justice for Black Farmers Act of 2020 - (116th: S.4929)
- Increase appropriations to the USDA's Local Agricultural Marketing Program (LAMP), Healthy Food Financing Initiative (HFFI), and Gus Schumacher Nutrition Incentive Program (GusNIP).

URGE ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION

- Mandate USDA to implement rules that raise animal welfare standards under the National Organic Program for meat, eggs, and dairy similar to those issued in the 2017 Organic Livestock and Poultry Practice Rule.
- Provide oversight over the implementation of the order for USDA to examine the impacts of current land tenure disputes regarding heirs' property, fracture allotments, and colonias, and fully implement the program to allow operators on heirs' property to obtain a FSA farm number as directed in the 2018 Farm Bill.

CHAMPION NEW LEGISLATION AND ACTION

- Allow states to develop and implement cottage industry food programs with a 75% federal cost share.
- Create a local inspector program for small-scale processors.
- Allow Farmers Market and Local Food Promotion Program (FMLFPP) grants to be more accessible to local food aggregation centers and hubs.
- Establish tax incentives for individuals who invest in infrastructure for local and regional foods systems.
- Expand school, institution, and federal institution food procurement geographic preference to include local processed food products in addition to unprocessed foods.
- Order ERS to study and make recommendations on federal cooperative ownership standards, to remedy the current state patchwork policies regarding cooperative establishment, ownership, public-private collaboration, and operation.