

BUILDING A COMPETITIVE, SAFE, AND RESILIENT PRODUCE SYSTEM

1. RESTORE COMPETITION IN PRODUCE MARKETS

Farmers have fewer buyers to choose from, while large produce companies have gained more control over how food moves from farms to consumers.

- **Strengthen antitrust enforcement** by investigating dominant produce firms for anticompetitive, exclusionary, or abusive business practices, while closely scrutinizing mergers and acquisitions that would further concentrate produce markets.
- **Investigate contracts** that shut out farmers and smaller businesses from selling to major buyers.

2. REBUILD LOCAL AND REGIONAL FOOD SYSTEMS

Heavy reliance on large national suppliers can make communities more vulnerable when one supplier has a problem.

- **Invest in regional processing, storage, and distribution** so farmers have more places to sell and communities have more access to local food.
- **Prioritize independent and mid-sized processors** in U.S. Department of Agriculture infrastructure programs.

3. REFORM POLICIES THAT DRIVE CONSOLIDATION

Federal policies currently reinforce the growth of the largest farms and suppliers instead of helping maintain a diverse farm economy.

- **Cap farm subsidy payments and close loopholes** that allow the largest operations to receive a disproportionate share of federal support.
- **Use government food purchasing to support regional and diverse suppliers**, rather than concentrating contracts among a small number of national companies.

4. INCREASE TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Powerful companies have greater access to the government officials and institutions responsible for overseeing their industries. Greater transparency and stronger safeguards are needed to ensure that public decisions serve the public interest.

- **Strengthen conflict-of-interest and revolving-door protections** for senior food safety officials to prevent companies from gaining an unfair advantage through government connections.
- **Restore routine disclosure of White House visitor logs** so the public can see who has access to federal decision-makers.
- **Require FDA to review major multistate outbreaks** after they end and publicly identify supply chain weaknesses and steps to prevent similar problems.

5. STRENGTHEN FOOD SAFETY AND PRODUCE TRACEABILITY

Consolidation has created sprawling supply chains that can make it harder to trace contaminated food back to its source, especially when products move through multiple companies and brands.

- **Revise and promptly implement FDA's Food Traceability Rule** to ensure traceability requirements are proportionate to business size and risk, while strengthening the ability to quickly identify where contaminated food came from and where it went.
- **Provide technical and financial help to smaller farms, food hubs, and regional businesses** so they can meet traceability requirements without being pushed out of the market.
- **Strengthen FDA's food safety workforce and resources** by reversing recent staffing losses and building the capacity needed to conduct inspections, enforce food safety standards, and respond quickly to outbreaks.

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