



FARM BILL OVERVIEW

September 2022

Farm Bill overview



We will cover today:

- Farm Bill – what it is and why it matters
- Strategies to engage elected officials and stakeholders
- Event examples hosted by food banks



Panelists:

Itzul Gutierrez, CAFB

Andrew Cheyne, FRAC

Malia Cary, Second Harvest Food Bank of Orange County

Meg Davidson and Marchon Tatmon, San Francisco-Marin Food Bank



2023 Farm Bill: Strategy to Strengthen SNAP

Andrew Cheyne SNAP Deputy Director

9/14/2022

What is in the Farm Bill?

12 Titles

1. Commodity
2. Conservation
3. Trade
- 4. Nutrition**
5. Credit
6. Rural development
7. Research, Extension and Related Matters
8. Forestry
9. Energy
10. Horticulture
11. Crop Insurance
12. Miscellaneous

Key Nutrition Programs Funded by the 2018 Farm Bill

- Commodity Supplemental Food Program
- The Emergency Food Assistance Program
- Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations
- Gus NIP (Nutrition Incentive Program)
- Senior Farmers Market Program
- **Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program**
- Nutrition Assistance Program block grants in U.S. Territories

Scale of SNAP

The charitable sector can't solve hunger alone.



1 in 9 For every one meal that Feeding America provides, SNAP provides 9 meals.

The Feeding America network of 200 food banks provides over 4 billion meals a year to help the more than 37 million food insecure people in the United States. Alone this won't solve food insecurity. SNAP is a critical piece in assuring families have enough resources to put food on the table. It takes a partnership with federal nutrition programs like SNAP to ensure families are able to put nutritious food on the table.

Timeline & Process for the 2023 Farm Bill

- 5-year cycle (last enacted December 2018)
- Multiple titles (crop insurance, farm subsidies, conservation, nutrition, and more)
- 2022: Senate & House Agriculture Committee hearings & “Marker” bills
 - Field hearings by Committee Members
- 2023: Committee markups; floor votes & Conference Committee
- 2024: Enactment & Implementation or Missed Deadline?

Farm Bill Context

- SNAP is permanently authorized
 - We do not need to take a bad deal just to get an “on time” Farm Bill
 - Farm, conservation, other programs with deadlines or urgent needs drive process
- Farm Bill comes together across the titles
 - Bipartisan agreement in the end across the package

Farm Bill Road to Success: Urban Rural Alliance

- Farmers know this!
- Rod Larew: without a strong nutrition title, “it is next to impossible to get a Farm Bill through.”
- George Goblish, American Soybean Association: “Without the nutrition title, we don’t have the votes for the programs we need.”



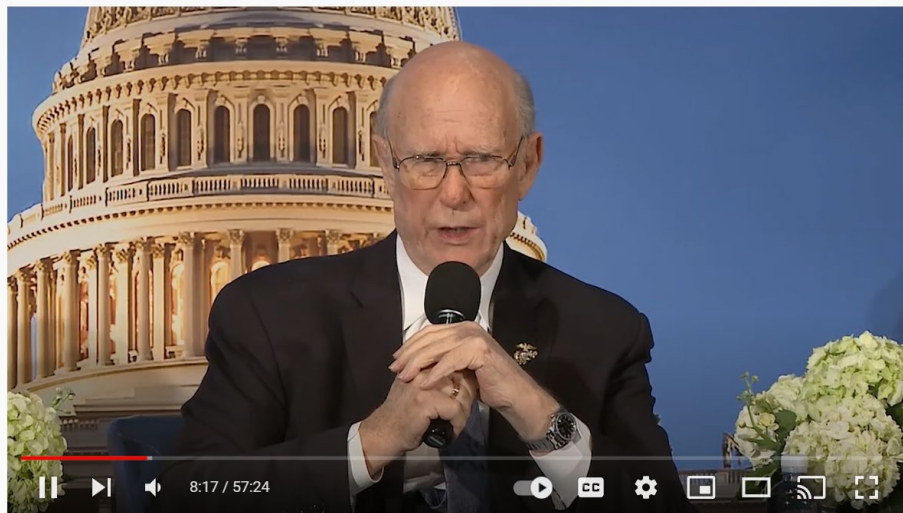
2022 Ag & Food Policy Summit - Why rural America needs farm bill nutrition programs



Farm Bill Comes Together Across the Titles

Former Chair Sen. Roberts on 2018 Farm Bill success:

“The fact we did not get into [SNAP] work requirements and other things that were very difficult to administer, that means I got every Democrat vote, and I only lost 13 Republican votes. We had 87 votes for the Farm Bill.”

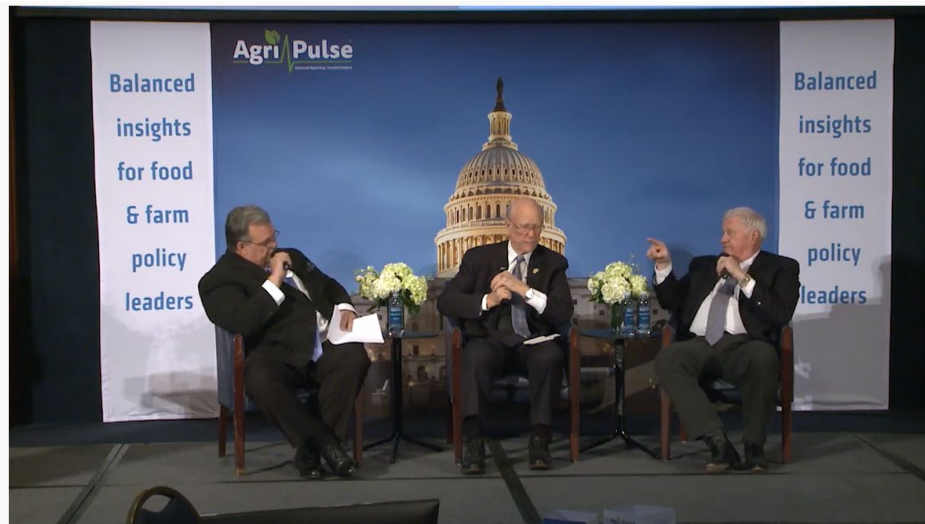


2022 Ag & Food Policy Summit - Lessons learned from past farm bills

Election Results Don't Determine Farm Bill

Former Chair Rep. Peterson warning for 2023, **regardless which party controls Congress:**

“If you want to make sure you don't have a Farm Bill” then include unacceptable SNAP provisions.



2022 Ag & Food Policy Summit - Lessons learned from past farm bills

SNAP Policy Priorities: Transition Memo

Boost SNAP benefits to improve participants' health and stimulate the economy

Eliminate Arbitrary Eligibility Barriers and Technology Barriers to SNAP Access

Improve Access Points for SNAP Customers to Obtain Food

Invest in Technology and Other Administrative Supports to Promote SNAP Benefit Access

[FRAC Transition Recommendations to Address Hunger in America 2020](#)

AHPC SNAP Leave Behind

Antihungerpolicyconference.org/...FarmBillPriorities.pdf

Farm Bill: Congress Must Protect and Strengthen SNAP and Other Anti-Hunger Programs

MARCH 2022

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)

SNAP is the cornerstone of the nation's nutrition and food security safety net, helping to put food on the table for 41 million low-income participants each month. When the number of families struggling to make ends meet increases, SNAP responds quickly and effectively to meet that need.

SNAP Action Needed

Congress should again protect SNAP's structure and funding, and Congress should strengthen SNAP by adopting provisions contained in the following bills:

H.R. 4077/S. 2192 (Closing the Meal Gap Act of 2021)

- Base SNAP benefit allotments on the more adequate Low-Cost Food Plan.
- Boost SNAP benefits for families with children forced to choose between food and shelter.
- Boost SNAP benefits for older Americans forced to choose between food and medicine.
- Boost the SNAP minimum monthly benefit which currently is only \$20
- Improve equitable access by extending SNAP to Puerto Rico and other U.S. Territories

H.R. 1753 (Improving Access to Nutrition Act of 2021)

- Lift SNAP's arbitrary three-month time limit to ensure that all eligible people have access to nutrition assistance and stay healthy.

H.R. 1919/S. 2515 (Enhance Access to SNAP Act of 2021)

- Level SNAP access for low-income college students

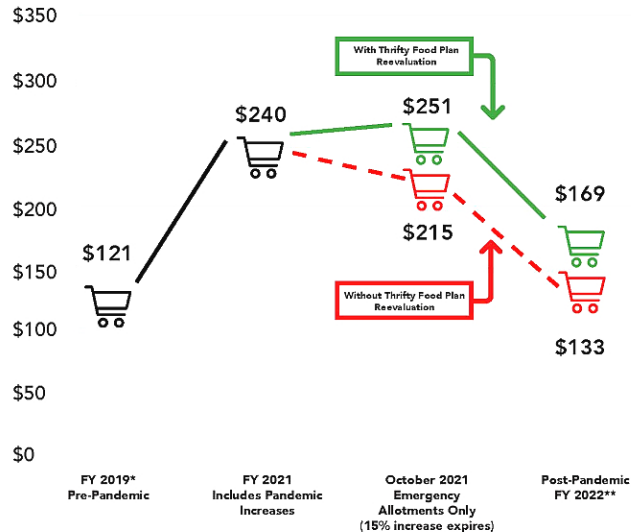
H.R. 5227 (Lift the Bar Act of 2021)

- Eliminate the five-year bar (i.e., waiting period) for access to SNAP and other federal programs
- Restore eligibility and access to critical services for immigrants with sponsors
- Include any individual lawfully present in the U.S. in the definition of "qualified noncitizen," which is used to determine eligibility for many federal programs

SNAP Policy Priorities: Public Health Emergency



**SNAP Average Monthly Per Person Benefits
FY 2019 - FY 2022 (Projected)**



Major Hunger Cliffs Loom

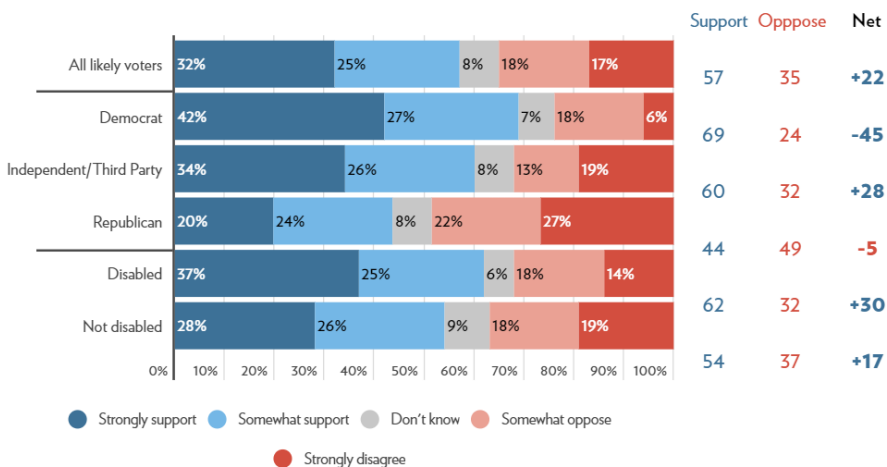
- Emergency Allotments
- 3-month time limit
- College students
- Streamlined access & administration

Support for Extending SNAP Expansions

Majorities of Disabled and Nondisabled Voters Support Increasing Access to Food Assistance After the Pandemic Ends

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), which provides food assistance primarily to low-income families, people with disabilities, and seniors, requires most recipients without dependent children to report at least 80 hours of qualifying work or job training per month in order to receive food assistance. During the pandemic the government temporarily paused this requirement.

Would you support or oppose extending this pause after the pandemic ends?



FOOD POLICY

Figure 19. Favorable Support for Food and Agriculture Policies by Education Level, January - July 2022



[Disability Economic Justice Collaborative](#)

[Purdue Consumer Food Insights Survey](#)

SNAP Policy Priorities: Benefit Adequacy

Congress should strengthen SNAP by passing the “Closing the Meal Gap Act” (H.R. 4077/S. 2192) to:



Base SNAP benefits on the more adequate Low-Cost Food Plan



Boost SNAP benefits for families with children forced to choose between food & shelter



Boost SNAP benefits for older Americans forced to choose between food & medicine



Boost the SNAP minimum monthly benefit



Remove SNAP time limits



Provide equitable SNAP access for Puerto Rico & U.S. Territories

Many Ways to Boost SNAP

- Low-Cost Food Plan
- Minimum Benefit
- Standard Medical Deduction
- End Time Limit
- Equity for Puerto Rico & U.S. Territories

SNAP Priorities: Equity for College Students

EATS Act H.R. 1919/S. 2515

Gillibrand proposes bill expanding SNAP benefits for college students

by WHAM | Wednesday, July 28th 2021



Congressman Gomez on the EATS Act.

CONGRESSMAN JIMMY GOMEZ

“ ”

If we ignore the hunger crisis on campuses nationwide, we are setting this generation of students up for failure. The EATS Act is a necessary step to provide an equitable, healthy learning environment for all of our country's bright young minds.

Jimmy Gomez

SNAP Policy Priorities: End 3-Month Time Limit

CONGRESSWOMAN BARBARA LEE REINTRODUCES THE IMPROVING ACCESS TO NUTRITION ACT

Washington, D.C. – Congresswoman Barbara Lee reintroduced the Improving Access to Nutrition Act, which will lift the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program’s (SNAP) three month time limit and ensure that all people have access to nutrition assistance and stay healthy while seeking full-time work.

Feeding America, a non-profit organization tackling hunger in the U.S., estimates that more than 42 million people are now experiencing hunger due to Covid-19. Under current law, adults ages 18-49 without children, and without a documented disability, are subject to a harmful and arbitrary three-month time limit of SNAP benefits unless they are working 80 hours a month.

“As millions struggle to keep food on the table during this pandemic, it is more critical than ever that we ensure access to healthy food,” **said Congresswoman Barbara Lee.** “As a single mother raising two boys, I know the tough decisions that families face when paying for food and other necessities. SNAP was a bridge over troubled water to help feed my family, and the same is true for countless others.

“SNAP benefits ensure that all adults, including those who struggle to find stable employment, have access to food. Creating a barrier to food access does not help anyone secure employment or make our communities healthier or safer. It’s past time that the federal government step up and reduce these cruel restrictions that only worsen food insecurity during a global pandemic and economic crisis.”



Congresswoman

BARBARA LEE

13th District of California

**FRAC Chat on H.R.
1753**

FRAC
Equal Opportunity • Active People

SNAP Policy Priorities: Customer Choice

Bipartisan Trio Pens Bill for SNAP to Cover Hot Foods

[FRAC Chat on H.R. 6338 SNAP PLUS Act](#)

SNAP PLUS Act would allow benefit recipients to use program to purchase hot and prepared foods, which are prohibited under current guidelines.

By Thomas Mulloy | December 22, 2021



A bipartisan trio of U.S. House members introduced bipartisan legislation that would allow Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits to be used to purchase hot foods and certain prepared foods, which are currently not covered by SNAP.

U.S. Reps. Bobby L. Rush, D-Ill.; Grace Meng, D-N.Y.; and Brian Fitzpatrick, R-Pa.; announced the



Farm Bill Strategy: Stay on Message



Andrew Cheyne
@cheyne_andrew

.@MNFarmfest speaker @ASA_Soybeans George Goblisch comments on the need for a unified #FarmBill that supports #SNAP and the #nutrition title as well as resources for critical farm programs.

@HungerSolutions @MNFarmersUnion



Andrew Cheyne @cheyne_andrew · Jul 22

.@ClaireCLane tells @RepKimSchrier & @StaceyPlaskett how much #SNAPmatters to #EndHungerNow, including #WA as a state model, but barriers exist:

@RepBarbaraLee's #HR1753 to support adults & @RepJimmyGomez #HR1919 for college students are proven solutions for equitable access!



A 2022 Review of the Farm Bill: Perspectives from the Field (WA)

Andrew Cheyne @cheyne_andrew · Jul 19

.@StMarysOak Leader Carey Whiteside tells @RepBarbaraLee about his loss of #SNAP despite challenges finding work - likely due to the capped shelter deduction that #HR4077 would end! And the food apartheid conditions in Oakland where whole communities lack access to fresh food.



Farm Bill Strategy: Support our Champions

Summary (1)

Text (1)

Actions (3)

Titles (2)

Amendments (0)

Cosponsors (109)

Committees (1)

Related Bills (1)

Cosponsors: H.R.4077 — 117th Congress (2021-2022)

Sponsor: [Rep. Adams, Alma S. \[D-NC-12\]](#) | Cosponsor statistics: 109 current - includes 85 original

Hide Filters



* = Original cosponsor

Cosponsors: H.R.1919 — 117th Congress (2021-2022)

Sponsor: [Rep. Gomez, Jimmy \[D-CA-34\]](#) | Cosponsor statistics: 107 current - includes 60 original

Hide Filters



* = Original cosponsor

Cosponsors: H.R.1753 — 117th Congress (2021-2022)

Sponsor: [Rep. Lee, Barbara \[D-CA-13\]](#) | Cosponsor statistics: 75 current - includes 19 original

Hide Filters



* = Original cosponsor

More Actions to Advance SNAP in the Farm Bill

- Center people with lived experience of hunger & poverty
- Publish a Farm Bill priorities memo
- Organize a roundtable event
- Develop local coalitions: farmers, retail, healthcare, education, faith, local government, other stakeholders
- Generate local data
- Site visit to your food bank, agencies

Farm Bill Resources

SNAP Priorities

- [Biden-Harris Transition Memo](#)
- [Anti-Hunger Policy Conference](#) (with Feeding America)

Webinar Series with FA & CBPP: [Part 1](#), [Part 2](#), [Part 3](#)

FRAC Chats (Examples)

- [Farm Bill Urban Rural Alliance](#)
- Protect and Strengthen SNAP Agenda [Part 1](#), [Part 2](#)

Read FRAC's Federal Nutrition Programs Update (Fridays)



Connect With Us!

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CAFB Farm Bill work:

- CAFB Farm Bill priorities
- Providing public comment at hearings
- Engagement with members of Congress
- Requesting cosponsorship on key marker bills



2023 Farm Bill Priorities

In our nation of abundance, no one should go hungry. Yet in California today, 1 in 5 people are food insecure, and [deep disparities remain for Black and Latinx people \(28.9% and 27.5% respectively\) who experience food insecurity at double the rate for white people \(14.3%\).](#)

Last year, SNAP helped to support 4.4 million Californians – that’s nearly 1 in 9 people. [SNAP brought \\$11 billion in federal food benefits, \\$20 billion in total economic activity, and 272,000 jobs statewide.](#)

Thankfully, following Congress’s direction, USDA successfully implemented the 2018 Farm Bill, including a long overdue update to the Thrifty Food Plan (TFP). Unfortunately, [SNAP households face a hunger cliff](#) with the looming end of the Public Health Emergency, an average drop of [\\$82 per person per month](#).

Even with the TFP update, SNAP benefits are still inadequate to maintain a healthy diet: SNAP benefits in California will average approximately [\\$5.50 per person per day once temporary COVID enhancements expire](#). [Congress](#) shouldn’t repeat past mistakes from previous crises and make the following permanent improvements to strengthen SNAP.

Strengthen SNAP:

- **Improve SNAP benefit adequacy** to help SNAP participants meet their household’s dietary, cultural, and other food needs: [H.R. 4077](#) (Rep. Adams) / [S. 2192](#) (Sen. Gillibrand), Closing the Meal Gap Act.
- **Increase equitable access to SNAP for critical populations:**
 - Repeal the three-month time limit on SNAP for certain **working age adults who face discrimination and other barriers to consistent employment**: [H.R. 1753](#) (Rep. Lee), Improve Access to Nutrition Act.
 - Equalize SNAP access for **low-income college students**: [H.R. 1919](#) (Rep. Gomez) / [S. 2515](#) (Sen. Gillibrand), Enhanced Access to SNAP Act (EATS Act).
 - Reverse the racially discriminatory policy of prohibiting SNAP to **immigrants** by repealing the five year bar for SNAP, TANF, and Medicaid: [H.R. 5227](#) (Rep. Jayapal) / [S. 4311](#) (Sen. Hirono), LIFT the BAR Act.



CAFB Farm Bill priorities:

Strengthen SNAP

- Equitable access for SNAP critical populations
 - Repeal the cruel three-month time limit on certain working adults
 - Equalize SNAP access for college students
 - Repeal the racially discriminatory 5-year bar of prohibiting SNAP to immigrants
- Make pandemic flexibilities and improvements permanent
- Improve Disaster SNAP
- Expand SNAP to purchase hot and prepared foods
- Limit overpayments

CAFB Farm Bill priorities:

- **Fully resource the Emergency Food System and build on recent innovations**
 - TEFAP- provide additional \$900M, raise the income threshold to 250% and make pandemic flexibilities permanent
 - Fund the Local Food Purchase Assistance (LFPA) program for a second round
 - Enhance the Commodity Supplemental Food Program
- **End exclusionary policies that harm Native Americans/Alaska Natives/Native Hawaiians**
 - End the prohibition on dual enrollment in the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations and SNAP



Providing public comment at hearings:

House Ag Committee

California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA)

Engaging with elected officials and stakeholders:

Requesting cosponsorship on key marker bills

Sharing Farm Bill priorities



Second Harvest Food Bank of Orange County

Malia Cary

Government & Public Affairs Coordinator



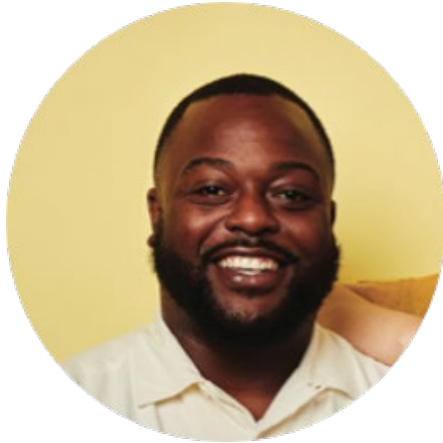
**SECOND
HARVEST
FOOD
BANK**
ORANGE COUNTY

Farm Bill Event

Planning Process & Things to Consider

- **Member(s) of Congress**
 - Want to schedule around them to be sure they are able to attend
- **Style of event** - Town hall, forum, roundtable, etc.
 - If open to the public - be aware if candidate(s) are up for re-election
- **Size of event**
- **Length & format**
- **Invite list**

San Francisco-Marin Food Bank



Marchon Tatmon

Sr. Government Affairs
Manager



Meg Davidson

Director, Policy &
Advocacy

Our goals



- 1 Engage elected officials**
Through education and awareness-building
- 2 Deepen partnerships**
With organizations working with our community through co-hosting
- 3 Create opportunity**
For individuals directly impacted by Farm Bill policy to share their story
- 4 Increase public awareness**
On Farm Bill and its impact on our communities among our stakeholders

Leverage relationships to lift community voices



FOOD FOR ALL
MAKES IT POSSIBLE

TERNELL'S STORY

I'm studying nursing full time, so I don't have time to work much. I used to skip a lot of meals. Since the food pantry opened on campus, I can get an exam at my



FOOD FOR ALL
MAKES IT POSSIBLE

JAMES' STORY

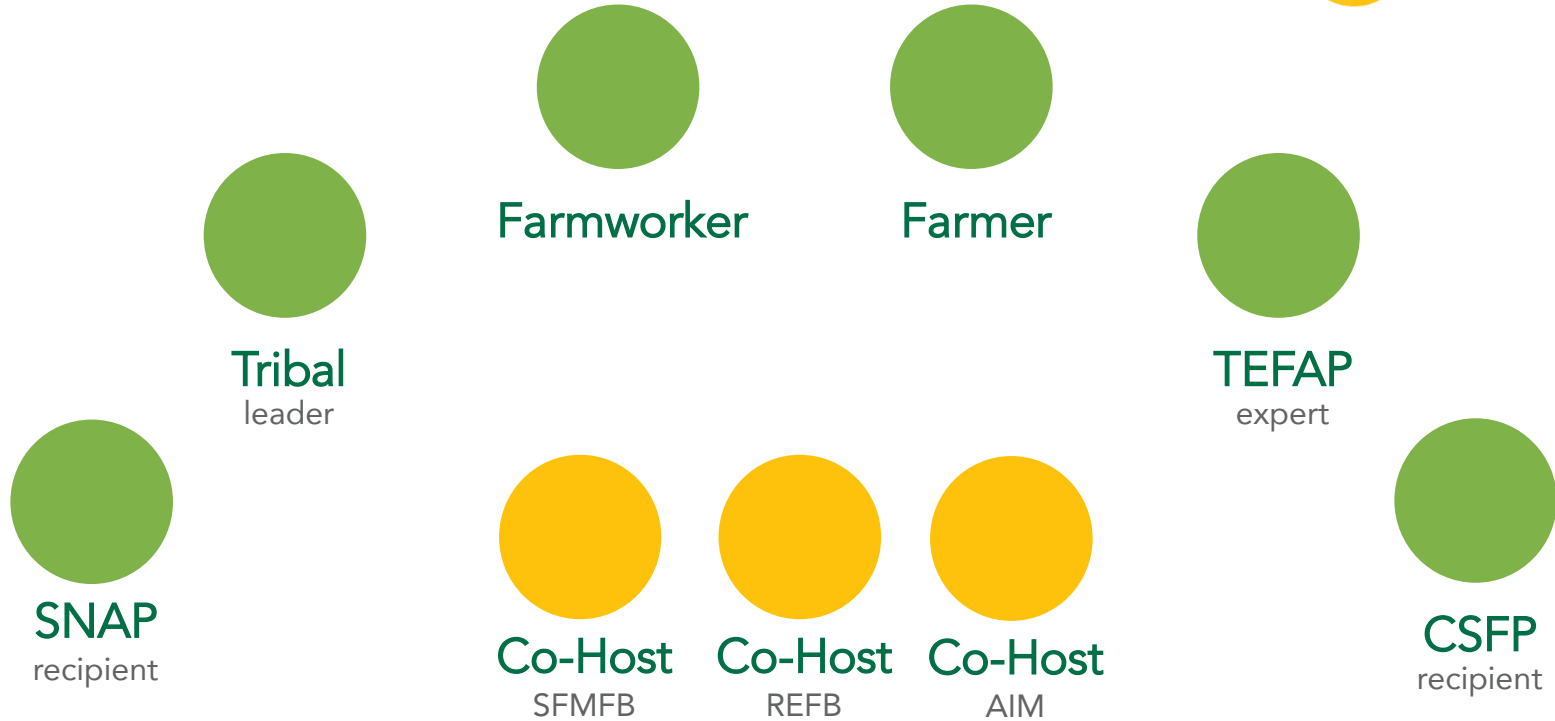
I'm retired, so, I can help out at the food pharmacy. People's eyes light up when they see the selection of food each week. And it's a comfort to me knowing that my neighborhood is stronger because of it.



HUNGER, NUTRITION AND
HEALTH LISTENING SESSION



Setting the Table



Challenges and Considerations



- **Locking in a date and time**

It's harder than it sounds

- **Recruiting and preparing guests**

It's also harder than it sounds

- **Inviting the press**

Will likely completely change the vibe of the event

- **Keep an eye on the scope**

Limiting the discussion to just the Nutrition Title may help keep the conversation focused



Upcoming opportunities:

CDFA listening session

September 22, 10am-12pm

Hybrid (live/virtual)

Submit written comments to CDFA:

farmbill@cdfa.ca.gov

Deadline September 30



**Join us at the
Farm Bill discussion group
Tuesday, Oct. 4th at the
Food ACCESS Conference!**