

## **Synopsis of notes from CFSC Atlanta Conference**

### ***New Markets***

- Direct marketing help aimed at helping medium-sized farmers.
- Encourage increased volume on fair trade as a new marketing niche
- Develop marketing for small farmers
- Research on how the large purchasing companies are working with small-and medium sized farmers, farmers of color, or low-resource farmers.
  - Increase infrastructure to improve ability of small-and medium sized farmers, farmers of color, or low-resource farmers to sell to large purchasers.
- Develop marketing for value-added agriculture
- Fund business training and entrepreneurship; expand the specialty crop program
- Explore ways to lower produce prices while improving pay to farmers.
- Improve ability of local food banks or associations of food banks to purchase local food collectively by getting food banks money for transportation and purchase; could appeal to some Congress people for money using the fight against obesity or support of farmers as issues.
- Reform policies for state-to-state transportation of meat products and easier labeling for small, local meat producers.
- Put Farm-to-Cafeteria in the Farm Bill.
- Clarify rules on federal ability to buy local so that more local purchasing is possible in all programs.
  - All federal institutions should be required to buy local where practical to the maximum extent.
- Support research on profitability of community-supported agriculture farms.
- Establish a separate, defined program, with its own funding stream, for the Department of Defense Farm to School Program.

### ***Healthy Foods and Communities***

#### **Urban Agriculture/Gardening**

- Fund community-based grants for agriculture projects, possibly from HUD.
- Avoid block granting of community development
- Increase funding specifically for urban agriculture projects (used to be more money set aside specifically for these types of projects)
- Encourage agribusinesses (i.e. nurseries, greenhouses) in urban areas
- Support establishment of co-ops with programs such as Food Co-op 500: 10 pilot projects every 6 months for communities interested in starting co-ops, partnerships with existing co-ops to help get off the ground

- Link co-ops who need start-up money with banks/groups that are willing to support these endeavors
- Change HUD to offer the retail space associated with HUD housing and Hope 6 to be offered exclusively to local retail
- Use community investment resources to gain leverage for urban agriculture.
- Provide linkages in urban spaces between ethnic grocers and local farmers, especially grocers that make contributions to the local community fabric.
- Include meat in discussions about urban agriculture

## **Nutrition**

- Continue funding for nutrition research.
- Support local wellness policies.
- Research effects of pesticides, hormones, antibiotics in our food supply.
- Learn more about the health effects of CAFOs (factory farms).
- Examine the fact that subsidy pyramid and food marketing pyramid (money spent on junk advertising vs. healthy food advertising) is inverted from nutritional food pyramid.
- Limiting fast food through zoning
- Consider development of overarching vision that incorporates the issues in the Farm Bill Nutrition title under a National Nutrition Policy—all the issues are ultimately about meeting people's nutritional needs, and take care of obesity concerns and national security.
- Fund WIC and WIC farmers markets (FMNP), as well as senior farmers markets.
- Providing EBT machines at farmers markets.

## *Schools*

- Increase reimbursement rates on school lunches for all children
- Get more fresh fruits and vegetables in school meal programs
- Add a permanent Farm-to-Cafeteria program in the Farm Bill.
- Continue to improve the nutritional quality of commodities provided to school nutrition programs.
- Reducing corporate ability to advertise junk food to children (like UK example) or vastly increasing the money for advertisements for healthy food (similar to advertising program for milk, except for all healthy food)

## *Food Stamps*

- Reform Food Stamp program
  - Fight block granting of food stamps
  - Increase number of people eligible for benefits (i.e. legal immigrants, drug felons, unemployed people w/o children).
  - Increase minimum benefit
  - Improving adequacy of benefit
  - Increase administration money available to the program (# case workers)
  - Streamline program

- Extend and expand Food Stamp Nutrition Education program to be available to all low-income people, not just those eligible for food stamps.
- Support Food Stamps for legal immigrants, as it is under fire in the House.
- Correct misinformation about a public charge issue in Food Stamps; too many people felt that citizenship was deniable if on Food Stamps;
- Improve quality in the Food Stamp program, and simplify program where possible.
  - Eliminate asset test and vehicle test for participants (impossible to meaningfully participate in Food Stamp program and receive benefits of program if you can't accumulate assets).

### **Food Security**

- Incorporate language linking homeland security to food security.
- Improve access to food for elderly and homeless individuals and to other stressed communities.
- Require communities to have their own protected food supply in Homeland Security.
- Improve food security among migrant farmworkers.
- Expand the scope and funding for the Community Food Security Competitive Grant Program to make it more inclusive of a wider range of community food interests.
- Increase support for transport, processing and infrastructures to create real local food systems.
- Encourage groceries stores in low income areas of cities to aid food security.
  - Provide incentives for local ownership of grocery stores.
  - Encourage fresh, local, and affordable organic food.

### **Other Innovations**

- Develop food safety regulations that are scale specific, friendly to small and medium size growers and processors, and defederalized (similar to restaurants and organic certification).
- Promote private sector responses to encouraging healthy communities (i.e. HMOs offering monetary rebate for CSA members).
- Create a national leadership program to get youth from low income and underrepresented communities more involved in food systems issues.
- Assist urban residents trying to access to land and teach them how to utilize land as part of a solution to urban poverty instead of only continuing food subsidies.
  - Encourage a resettling of black farmers from urban areas back to farms, which would probably include education of urban people of color how to farm.
- Change agriculture system so that federal money is an investment, not a cash flow. (“Support communities, not commodities.”)
- Encourage creation of infrastructure for regional food supply chains.
- Provide more equity in funding for university research.
  - Decreasing corporatization of academic studies.
  - Widen debate about fair allocation of resources land grant institutions ( 1862, 1890, and 1994 schools)

### ***Farm and Ranch Stewardship***

- Support small-scale bee keepers.
- Research health effects of agriculture in water pollution, emissions, etc.
- Improve monitoring of costs of agricultural inputs and outputs, including pesticides and fuel, to promote on-farm conservation.
- Tie on-farm energy consumption to Farm Bill provisions and reward energy efficiency in food system innovation.
- Research biofuel uses on farms to assess environmental and health advantages and disadvantages
- Include rewards for on-farm solar energy use in CSP.
- Agriculture viability must go hand-in-hand with conservation and environmental sustainability.
- Increase funding for Federal Farm and Ranch Preservation Program.

### ***Family Farm Revitalization/Viability***

- Encourage links between purchasing and multiple other movements; including fair trade and farmworker rights.
- Fund organic/sustainable dairies in transition.
- Increase ability to pass on knowledge and farm between generations.
- Control price of farmland that is increasing due to recreational use. Finding balance between passing farms on to next generation and having income from selling land.
- Decrease health insurance costs for farmers.
- Control increasing fuel costs by creating equity in the energy sector.
- Change regulations so that limits on funding to co-ops are related to size of the co-op.
- Improve monitoring of costs of agricultural inputs and outputs, including pesticides and fuel, to promote on-farm conservation.
- Support and address farmworker issues in the Farm Bill, recognizing that US foreign and trade policy has affected farmers south of the border, converting *campesinos* into farmworkers and thus destroying communities abroad to keep food cheap here.
- Include reparations for the USDA minority farmers' lawsuit in Farm Bill.
- Support \honey producers and small-scale bee keepers for pollination on small farms (MT EQuIP has given money for bee farmers, pollinators)
- Spread word about local pilot projects that have worked well so that they can grow to federal programs if successful at the local level.
- Support subsidy caps to aid small farmers.
- Develop new ways of making farmland available to more producers.
- Increase access to water for small/beginning farmers in Hawaii, and increase support for getting young people started in farming.
- Encourage a healthy and vigorous debate about farm subsidies.
  - Ag. Policy and Health Policy must come together on commodities, and find a common winnable goal and message for Congress members.
  - Long-term strategic planning for future Farm Bills may be more effective than fighting subsidies.

**Other**

- Reform tax policy to support tax incentives for beginning farmers.
- Extend subsidy links to smaller farmers, such as rewards for selling to community markets such as hospitals, schools, or tax policy for donations to these places.
- Accountability and transparency in all operations of USDA so that all farmers receive same services .
  - Full funding for 2501.
  - Reform of the county committee system.
- Evaluate USDA policies on rural communities to determine how programs impact rural communities.
- Include local voices in meaningful dialogue in the rebuilding of Gulf Coast post-Katrina instead of corporate multinationals making determinations.