

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE 116TH CONGRESS



JOHNS HOPKINS
CENTER *for* A LIVABLE FUTURE

*Working at the Intersection of
Food and Agriculture Policy,
Public Health and the Environment*

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As an interdisciplinary academic center based within the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, the Center for a Livable Future conducts a range of research, policy, communication, education, and advocacy activities that increase scientific understanding, raise awareness, and promote action on issues such as eliminating the non-therapeutic use of antibiotics in food animal production, reducing the environmental degradation caused by industrial agriculture, reducing food waste, assisting institutions seeking a more sustainable food supply, and building the capacity of communities of practice to reshape the food system.

Recognizing the international, multi-faceted nature of food system problems, the Center draws upon expertise from disciplines throughout Johns Hopkins University and beyond, building University-wide bridges and establishing collaborative relationships with organizations in public and private sectors, across communities and around the world.

The Center is an active leader in the efforts to create a food system that is more healthy, equitable and resilient, and pursues its mission in the following ways:

- Supporting and conducting interdisciplinary research through collaboration with experts in a variety of fields
- Educating and training students, professionals, and the public through doctoral fellowships, graduate coursework and certificate programs, a textbook in food systems, and open-access online curricula

- Communicating food system and public health expertise to a wide range of audiences, including policymakers, nongovernmental organizations, educators, and students
- Generating resource materials, translating science, and providing technical expertise for policy, advocacy, and outreach initiatives
- Partnering with organizations that complement the Center's and University's resources and expertise in order to improve our food system overall and strengthen capacities to advance change at the local and regional levels

The Center's four core program areas and cross-cutting education program integrate research, policy, education, communication and a range of public health program activities that support the Center's mission, each with a unique focus on a particular aspect of the food system and its impact on public health.

Below is an overview of program areas and highlighted projects, followed by our Center's policy recommendations on key food systems issues for the Trump administration and the 116th Congress.

We are here to serve as a resource to the administration, members of Congress, and agency staff on issues related to food systems, public health, and the environment. For more information on the Center or guidance on these issues, please contact Bob Martin, Director of Food System Policy, at rmarti57@jhu.edu or at (410) 223-1821.



Food System Policy

The Center’s Food System Policy program includes a diverse portfolio of projects and activities that aim to advance federal, state and local agriculture and food policies to protect the public’s health and the environment by supporting a healthy, equitable and resilient food system. Harnessing available expertise across the Center and throughout Johns Hopkins University, the program builds upon the many comparative advantages of the University to conduct interdisciplinary research, translate science to support policy efforts, convene key food system stakeholders, and engage advocates and policymakers at all levels.

In addition to implementing a range of projects initiated by the Food System Policy program, program staff also advise and oversee policy work initiated by other CLF program areas. By providing direct support and in-house policy expertise for program priorities, the program creates synergy on the Center’s policy priorities and helps strengthen capacity for Center-wide policy engagement.

Recent projects in the policy program include: the Food Citizen Project, an ongoing research

Program Highlight:

Food Citizen Project

The Food Citizen Project is an ongoing public opinion research project that gathers public perceptions and attitudes on food system issues. It utilizes a variety of information-gathering methods, including focus groups and scientific polling, and works at a range of levels and scales regarding geographic area and scope. Results from focus groups and polling are communicated to the public, to policymakers at all levels, and to civil society groups working on related issues. To bring about change and move toward a healthy,

equitable and more ecologically resilient food system, it is essential that we understand what people know about the food system and how they perceive key issues.

As attention to, and work on, food system change is growing, with more nongovernmental organizations working on these issues each year, the Food Citizen Project will provide information to groups working in this area in order to inform and strengthen efforts. A deeper understanding of public opinions

and interests regarding the food system is also needed to inform policymakers and the media on these important issues, independent of lobbying interests. The value of the Food Citizen Project will be enhanced over time. As data are collected

and analyzed, trends can be identified and our understanding of perceptions about food production, consumption, and other food issues will increase.

Program Highlight:

Antibiotic Use Policy

The Food System Policy and the Food Production and Public Health programs have leveraged research conducted by the Center and others on the misuse of antibiotics in food animal production and have provided guidance to state and federal policymakers, national security staff, food service management companies, and food retail companies on this issue. The Center was the first to investigate the percentage of antibiotics that are sold or distributed for use in food animals—nearly 80% of all antibiotics in 2009—and has continued to inform advocacy groups working on antibiotics issues with its analysis of federal guidance (such as Guidance

for Industry #213) and scientific research linking antibiotic use in feeding operations to antibiotic resistance in human infections.

The Food System Policy program has also directly advised state legislators on proposed antibiotics legislation, commented on several proposed rules and guidance related to antibiotics in animal agriculture, and conducted a review of the antibiotics commitments and guidance made by food animal integrators, food retail companies, and federal agencies in order to inform and advise on antibiotic use policies for food service management companies.



Food Communities and Public Health

The Center’s Food Communities and Public Health program focuses on developing relationships with communities to improve food environments, increase access to healthy food, and inform food and nutrition policy. By working with professional, community-based, governmental and academic communities, the program implements projects and activities that build and strengthen capacity to address key opportunities to create a healthy and resilient food system that is equitable for all.

The program provides technical assistance and leadership support by developing metrics and evaluation tools to measure the impact of changes, translating scientific research findings into practical policy recommendations, evaluating food system interventions to provide evidence for policy and program decisions, and convening stakeholders at the state, local, and regional levels to advocate for reform on leading food system issues. The program uses scientific evidence to guide its technical assistance and leadership support in efforts to increase community food security, promote environmental stewardship, and strengthen

networks among local and regional food, nutrition, and agriculture organizations.

The Food Communities and Public Health program’s current activities include the Food System Mapping project, the Food Policy Networks project, and technical assistance for Meatless Monday, a national program based in New York that encourages reducing meat consumption. Each applies a different approach to help communities improve the current food system, ranging from spatial mapping of the food system to using the Food Policy Evaluation Toolkit to measure the impact of food policy groups.

Program Highlight:

Meatless Monday Technical Support

Meatless Monday is a public health campaign that encourages people to choose meat-free meals one day each week as a way to help improve their personal health and the health of the planet. A nonprofit initiative of The Monday Campaigns, Meatless Monday began in 2003 in association with the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. The Campaign continues to expand and enjoy broad-based support

among individuals, celebrities, restaurants, schools, corporations, hospitals and media outlets in the U.S. and internationally. The Center harnesses expertise to strengthen the scientific foundation of the Meatless Monday campaign and offers technical assistance that involves a range of research, science translation and communication, education, and outreach activities.



Food System Education

The Center’s education program engages students of all ages and provides information on the complexity of our global food system through a public health lens. The program harnesses a diverse network of practitioners, academics, farmers and others working in the field of food systems to offer coursework and seminars, a professional training certificate, pre-doctoral fellowships, and mentorship to students and professionals focused on food systems and food production—topics not historically addressed in public health studies.

The Education program’s activities include a series of graduate-level courses at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, which consistently earn awards for teaching excellence based on student evaluations, and a free, online course offered through the Johns Hopkins University partnership with Coursera, titled An Introduction to the U.S. Food System: Perspectives from Public Health, which has reached over 16,000 learners around the world. The program also operates the

Food System Lab @ Cylburn, an urban teaching farm in Baltimore that provides tours and experiential educational programming to over 1,500 visitors annually. Additionally, the Center has released FoodSpan™, a standards-aligned curriculum for high school students to explore the food system through activities and classroom-based discussion, and the Food System Primer, an online resource offering short, easy-to-digest readings about topics from farm to fork.

Program Highlight:

FoodSpan™

FoodSpan™ is a free, downloadable high school curriculum that explores critical issues in the food system and empowers students to be food citizens. It is aligned with national education standards in science, social studies, health, and family and consumer sciences. This curriculum stimulates debate about crucial food system topics related to human health, the environment, equity, and animal welfare. The Center developed FoodSpan™ as a natural outgrowth of the work it does to help build a healthier, more equitable, and more resilient food system. The curriculum includes three units with

17 total lessons for Grades 9-12. Each lesson features an introductory warm-up, activities that facilitate a rich exploration of the lesson topic, optional activities, and lesson extensions that can serve as homework assignments or projects. A Food System Primer series also allows teachers to familiarize themselves with a lesson topic before teaching it and provides students with introductory background reading. The FoodSpan™ curriculum integrates social media connections into every lesson so that students can explore, share, and discuss their ideas with others.



Food System Sustainability and Public Health

The Center’s Food System Sustainability and Public Health program spurs the transition to a more sustainable, resilient, and less wasteful food system using research, practice, policy, education, and communications. The program specializes in three areas: wasted food, urban food system resilience, and sustainable diets. It also engages on a range of other food system sustainability issues, including social sustainability issues such as occupational safety and health, and justice issues for food system workers. In all of these areas, this program aims to understand and address the complex social realities relevant to making change.

The program’s current activities include research and policy projects to reduce the amount of food wasted in the U.S. each year, collaboration with Baltimore City as it develops one of the first urban food system resilience plans in the nation, and research on the impacts of animal agriculture and meat consumption

on climate change. At the forefront of wasted food and sustainable food systems research, the program also provides technical assistance to government agencies and organizations developing policies and programs that support more sustainable food systems.

Food Production and Public Health

The Food Production and Public Health program focuses on the relationships among food production, the environment, and public health in order to critically analyze the hidden or externalized costs and unintended, negative effects of the industrial food production model. The program documents the impacts of industrial agriculture practices, gathers evidence to inform policymaking, and promotes more sustainable and resilient methods of food production. Current activities include investigating the risks and benefits of urban agriculture, examining the sustainability, equity and health of the seafood sector, conducting research on animal feed additives, and providing information and technical assistance to communities burdened by food animal production operations.

Program Highlight:

Seafood, Public Health & Food Systems Project

The Seafood, Public Health & Food Systems Project conducts research, policy, and advocacy activities aimed at moving the seafood sector toward a more equitable, sustainable, and healthy seafood system. The project brings a unique perspective to farmed and wild seafood by applying a public health lens and knowledge of global food systems. It raises and answers new scientific and policy questions, provides context and analysis of poorly understood issues, and proposes solutions to modern aquaculture and seafood challenges.

The project has focused specifically on issues of seafood traceability and supply chains, resource

use and implications for food security, health and safety of workers, genetically engineered salmon, offshore aquaculture, and other related topics. Staff have developed one of the first environmental footprint estimates for crops used in aquaculture feed; found crop-based feeds can change the omega-3 content of farmed, carnivorous fish; estimated that 47 percent of seafood in the U.S. seafood supply chain is wasted, mainly due to consumer behavior; provided policy recommendations to reduce waste; and identified regulatory gaps to be addressed before U.S. federal agencies move ahead with developing offshore finfish aquaculture.

Center Recommendations for the Trump Administration and the 116th Congress

Please see Appendix A for recommendations organized by federal agency.

Antibiotics

- Refine the definition of non-therapeutic use of antimicrobials as any use in food animals in the absence of veterinarian-diagnosed microbial disease or documented microbial disease exposure
- Ban the non-therapeutic use of antimicrobials in food animal production to reduce the risk of antimicrobial resistance, limiting uses to disease control and disease treatment
- Support the development of a transparent and rigorously-evaluated antibiotic use reporting system, similar to those used in the European Union (e.g., Vetstat), following up on data already collected under the Veterinary Feed Directive rule.

Antitrust Law Enforcement

- Vigorously enforce current federal antitrust laws to allow for a competitive marketplace in animal agriculture
- If the enforcement of existing antitrust laws is not effective in restoring competition, further legislative remedies should be considered, such as more transparency in price reporting and limiting the ability of integrators to control the supply of animals for slaughter

Aquaculture, Fisheries, and Seafood

- Strengthen the Advancing the Quality and Understanding of American Aquaculture Act or AQUAA Act's proposed regulatory structure for the offshore aquaculture industry in the U.S. to address concerns regarding occupational safety and health, fish escapes, disease pressures and treatments, and fish waste
- Revise regulations to provide clear jurisdiction and standards to protect occupational health and safety for aquaculture workers
- Incorporate increased access to locally and regionally produced farmed and wild seafood into food procurement and fisheries policies
- Build on the work of the Obama Administration to increase global seafood traceability, leveraging the role of the U.S. as a major seafood importer to reduce illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing in non-U.S. waters
- Invest resources in tracking nutritional content of key farmed species to develop a knowledge base of nutritional changes as aquaculture feed compositions shift in response to limited fishmeal and fish oil supplies
- Include testing of farmed seafood products for sale in the U.S. in the National Antimicrobial Monitoring System for Enteric Bacteria

- Create a specific category for aquaculture in the Animal Drug User Fee Act data collection and reports

Food Access and Food Policy Advocacy

- Fund research efforts to evaluate larger scale initiatives that are working to increase access to healthy food, such as the Healthy Food Financing efforts
- Allocate existing Community Food Project (CFP) funding to build capacity for advocacy and policy within communities through models like food policy councils, community coalitions, and other stakeholder groups and prioritize communities traditionally underfunded by CFP such as states in the South and Midwest
- Support transdisciplinary research and applied projects that build regional food systems and support knowledge sharing through mechanisms such as Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI)
- Enforce provisions in the Farming Opportunity Training and Outreach (FOTO) program that increase transparency and engage stakeholders in program implementation
- Ensure all projects funded under the FOTO program are farmer-based, that the program continues to prioritize grant partnerships led by farmer-based nonprofit and community-based organizations, and that the program supports underserved communities, including minority, immigrant, and refugee farmers, as well as farmworkers and military veterans
- Support improvements to the Childhood Nutrition Reauthorization Act, including provisions that advance summer and afterschool meal programs and increase the age of eligibility for children to receive Women, Infants & Children (WIC) benefits, and oppose block grants for child nutrition programs
- Actively oppose restricting SNAP eligibility based on time limits for adults without dependents and advocate for its strengths as an entitlement program without dependents

Food Waste

- Demonstrate a commitment to the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)/Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) goal of reducing wasted food in the U.S. by half by 2030:
 - Continue to provide funding for research and practice activities that reduce wasted food in the U.S. across the food supply chain and by consumers
 - Support legislation that helps consumers and retailers reduce their food waste, such as The Food Recovery Act, introduced by Rep. Pingree (D-ME), and the Food Date Labeling Act, introduced by Sen. Blumenthal (D-CT) and Rep. Pingree

Food Procurement

- Support the implementation of the Health and Sustainability Guidelines for Federal Concessions and Vending Operations and provide guidance to governmental procurement offices on sustainable food procurement metrics
- All federal agencies should adopt environmentally sustainable food procurement practices, based on the Health Sustainability Guidelines for Federal Concessions and Vending Operations, that influence all government transactions in acquiring food
- Food procurement guidelines should also include metrics to track and encourage reductions in wasted food at federal food service institutions
- Federal agencies should aim to shift food purchases away from resource intensive foods (e.g, red meat, cheese) and toward more environmentally sustainable foods (e.g., plant-based proteins, vegetables, whole grains)

Food System Resilience

- Support Native food sovereignty and self-determination efforts including Tribal self-governance authority for anti-hunger and agricultural production programs
- Support activities that address resilience and adaptation to climate change across the entire food system, not just in agriculture

Food System Workers

- Amend the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) to:
 - Remove exemptions for agricultural workers and increase the minimum wage
 - Mandate states to require agricultural employers to provide full workers' compensation coverage
- Advocate for the replacement of the H-2A visa with a variation of the Blue Card program, which would allow visa holders to switch employers, apply for a green card after five years, and come and go from the U.S. as long as 100 days of agricultural work are completed in a year
- Encourage whistleblower provisions that would allow food production and processing workers to report waste, abuse, and fraud
- Advocate for amendments to the National Labor Relations Act that would afford agricultural workers the right to organize and collectively bargain
- Remove the exemption of food production and processing facilities from inspection and enforcement of labor laws based on the number of employees
- Provide child care subsidies that are not tied to income eligibility for farms and farm workers
- Advocate for the extension of eligibility for health insurance subsidies (under the Affordable Care Act) to agricultural workers and their families

Industrial Food Animal Production

- Promulgate new National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit regulations and effluent limitation guidelines that would require Confined Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs) to account for and effectively control water pollution from all facilities, no longer allowing them to “self-certify”
- Require that landowners applying CAFO waste for agronomic purposes develop and submit a comprehensive nutrient management plan, which should be incorporated into the NPDES permit
- Begin the process of ending the EPA exemption of CAFOs from enforcement of the Clean Air Act, the Comprehensive Environmental Response Compensation & Liability Act, and the Emergency Planning & Community Right to Know Act
- Require the involvement of local public health officials in permitting, CAFO permitting and CAFO air and water monitoring
- Direct Environmental Quality Incentive Program funding and Farm Service Agency loans to small and medium-sized operations rather than CAFOs and require a rigorous environmental and public health assessment as part of the approval process
- Improve enforcement of existing federal, state, and local food animal production facility regulations by providing adequate mandatory federal funding to states to enable them to hire more inspectors, collect data, and monitor farms more closely
- Prohibit the installation of new liquid manure handling systems, including waste lagoons, and phase out their use on existing operations in order to avoid the public health and environmental disasters such as those caused by waste lagoons during Hurricanes Floyd, Matthew and Florence in North Carolina
- Develop baseline federal zoning guidelines for food animal production facilities that set a framework for states and require a rigorous, pre-permit environmental impact study and a health impact assessment; such a requirement would not prevent states and counties from enacting more comprehensive zoning laws

Sustainable Diets

- Take the lead in addressing climate change and reducing greenhouse gas emissions from agriculture, in part by quantifying and limiting methane emissions from agriculture
- Support the development of Dietary Guidelines that are based on the scientific recommendations of the Advisory Committee and include recommendations to eat more environmentally sustainable diets in order to preserve Americans' health, food security, and the environment

The Center for a Livable Future is a voting member of the National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition (NSAC) and strongly supports the Coalition's recommendations for this Administration. In particular, we support the Coalition's goals and recommendations for 1) **conservation programs** and the Federal Crop Insurance Program; 2) the Farmer Fair Practices rules to support fair competition and contract reform for food animal producers; 3) programs supporting beginning

farmers and ranchers, particularly outreach and training for socially disadvantaged and veteran farmers and ranchers; 4) expanding access to farmland through Federal Tax incentives; and 5) local and regional food systems.

In addition, these recommendations require adequate funding in order to ensure appropriate programmatic and regulatory implementation.

Appendix A: Center Recommendations for the Trump Administration, 116th Congress by Agency

Food and Drug Administration

- Refine the definition of non-therapeutic use of antimicrobials as any use in food animals in the absence of veterinarian-diagnosed microbial disease or documented microbial disease exposure
- Ban the non-therapeutic use of antimicrobials in food animal production to reduce the risk of antimicrobial resistance, limiting uses to disease control and disease treatment
- Support the development of a transparent and rigorously-evaluated antibiotic use reporting system, similar to those used in the European Union (e.g., Vetstat), following up on data already collected under the Veterinary Feed Directive rule.
- Include testing of farmed seafood products for sale in the U.S. in the National Antimicrobial Monitoring System for Enteric Bacteria
- Create a specific category for aquaculture in Animal Drug User Fee Act data collection and reports

Department of Agriculture

- Support transdisciplinary research and applied projects that build regional food systems and support knowledge sharing through mechanisms like the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative
- Support Native food sovereignty and self-determination efforts including Tribal self-governance authority for anti-hunger and agricultural production programs
- Allocate existing Community Food Project (CFP) funding to build capacity for advocacy and policy within communities through models like food policy councils, community coalitions, and other stakeholder groups and prioritize communities traditionally underfunded by CFP like states in the South and Midwest
- Direct Environmental Quality Incentives Program funding and Farm Service Agency loans to small- and medium-sized operations rather than Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFO) and require a rigorous environmental and public health assessment as part of the approval process
- Support the development of Dietary Guidelines that are based on the scientific recommendations of an Advisory Committee and include recommendations to eat more environmentally sustainable diets in order to preserve Americans' health, food security, and the environment
- Incorporate increased access to locally and regionally produced farmed and wild seafood into food procurement and fisheries policies

- Incorporate metrics to track and encourage reductions in wasted food at federal food service institutions in food procurement and food service guidelines
- Invest resources in tracking nutritional content of key farmed species to develop a knowledge base of nutritional changes as aquaculture feed compositions shift in response to limited fishmeal and fish oil supplies
- Revise regulations to provide clear jurisdiction and standards to protect occupational health and safety for aquaculture workers
- Ensure all projects funded under the FOTO program are farmer-based, that the program continues to prioritize grant partnerships led by farmer-based nonprofit and community-based organizations, and that the program supports underserved communities, including minority, immigrant, and refugee farmers, as well as farmworkers and military veterans
- Support improvements to the Childhood Nutrition Reauthorization Act, including provisions that advance summer and afterschool meal programs and increase the age of eligibility for children to receive Women, Infants & Children (WIC) benefits, and oppose block grants for child nutrition programs
- Actively oppose restricting SNAP eligibility based on time limits for adults without dependents and advocate for its strengths as an entitlement program without dependents
- Advocate for its strengths as an entitlement program, oppose harsher work requirements, and advocate for its strengths as an entitlement program
- Enforce provisions in the Farming Opportunity Training and Outreach (FOTO) program that increase transparency and engage stakeholders in program implementation

Environmental Protection Agency

- Take the lead in addressing climate change and reducing greenhouse gas emissions from agriculture, in part by quantifying and limiting methane emissions from agriculture
- Promulgate new National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit regulations and effluent limitation guidelines that would require CAFOs to account for and effectively control water pollution from all facilities, no longer allowing them to “self-certify”
- Require that landowners applying CAFO waste for agronomic purposes develop and submit a comprehensive nutrient management plan, which should be incorporated into the NPDES permit

- End the EPA exemption of CAFOs from enforcement of the Clean Air Act, the Comprehensive Environmental Response Compensation & Liability Act, and the Emergency Planning & Community Right to Know Act
- Require involvement of local public health officials in CAFO permitting and CAFO air and water monitoring
- Improve enforcement of existing federal, state, and local food animal production facility regulations by providing adequate mandatory federal funding to states to enable them to hire more inspectors, collect data, and monitor farms more closely
- Prohibit the installation of new liquid manure handling systems, including waste lagoons, and phase out their use on existing operations in order to avoid the public health and environmental disasters such as those caused by waste lagoons during Hurricanes Floyd, Matthew and Florence in North Carolina
- Develop baseline federal zoning guidelines for food animal production facilities that set a framework for states and require a rigorous, pre-permit environmental impact study and a health impact assessment; such a requirement would not prevent states and counties from enacting more comprehensive zoning laws
- Demonstrate a commitment to the USDA/EPA goal of reducing wasted food in the U.S. by half by 2030:
 - Continue to provide funding for research and practice activities that reduce wasted food in the United States across the food supply chain and by consumers
 - Support legislation that helps consumers and retailers reduce their food waste, such as The Food Recovery Act, introduced by Rep. Pingree (D-ME), and the Food Date Labeling Act, introduced by Sen. Blumenthal (D-CT) and Rep. Pingree

Federal Trade Commission

- Vigorously strengthen and enforce current federal antitrust laws to allow for a competitive marketplace in animal agriculture
- If the enforcement of existing antitrust laws is not effective in restoring competition, further legislative remedies should be considered, such as more transparency in price reporting and limiting the ability of integrators to control the supply of animals for slaughter

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

- Build on the work of the Obama Administration to increase global seafood traceability, leveraging the role of the U.S. as a major seafood importer to reduce illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing in non-U.S. waters
- Strengthen the Advancing the Quality and Understanding of American Aquaculture Act or AQUAA Act's proposed regulatory structure for the offshore aquaculture industry in the

US to address concerns regarding occupational safety and health, fish escapes, disease pressures and treatments, and fish waste

- Incorporate increased access to locally and regionally produced farmed and wild seafood into food procurement and fisheries policies
- Revise regulations to provide clear jurisdiction and standards to protect occupational health and safety for aquaculture workers

Health and Human Services

- Fund research efforts to evaluate larger scale initiatives that are working to increase access to healthy food, such as the Healthy Food Financing efforts
- Advocate for the extension of eligibility for health insurance subsidies (under the Affordable Care Act) to agricultural workers and their families
- Support the development of Dietary Guidelines that are based on the scientific recommendations of an Advisory Committee and include recommendations to eat more environmentally sustainable diets in order to preserve Americans' health, food security, and the environment
- Incorporate metrics to track and encourage reductions in wasted food at federal foodservice institutions in food procurement and food service guidelines
- provide child care subsidies that are not tied to income eligibility for farms and farm workers.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

- Support the implementation of the Health and Sustainability Guidelines for Federal Concessions and Vending Operations and provide guidance to governmental procurement offices on sustainable food procurement metrics

Occupational Safety and Health Administration

- Revise regulations to provide clear jurisdiction and standards to protect occupational health and safety for aquaculture workers
- Remove the exemption of food production and processing facilities from inspection and enforcement of labor laws based on the number of employees

Department of Labor

- Work to amend to the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) to:
 - Remove exemptions for agricultural workers and increase minimum wage
 - Mandate states to require agricultural employers to provide full workers' compensation coverage
- Advocate for the replacement of the H-2A visa with a variation of the Blue Card program, which would allow visa holders to switch employers, apply for a green card after five

years, and come and go from the U.S. as long as 100 days of agricultural work are completed in a year

- Encourage whistleblower provisions that would allow food production and processing workers to report waste, abuse, or fraud
- Advocate for amendments to the National Labor Relations Act that would afford agricultural workers the right to organize and collectively bargain

All

- All federal agencies should adopt environmentally sustainable food procurement practices, based on the Health and Sustainability Guidelines for Federal Concessions and Vending Operations, that influence all government transactions in acquiring food
- Federal agencies should aim to shift food purchases away from resource intensive foods (e.g, red meat, cheese) and toward more environmentally sustainable foods (e.g., plant-based proteins, vegetables, whole grains)
- Provide funding for state and municipal-level planning, activities, and research that improve food system resilience
- Support activities that address resilience and adaptation to climate change across the entire food system, not just in agriculture

The Center for a Livable Future is a voting member of the National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition (NSAC) and strongly supports the Coalition’s recommendations for the Administration. In particular, we support the Coalition’s goals and recommendations for 1) [conservation programs](#) and the Federal Crop Insurance Program; 2) the Farmer Fair Practices rules to support fair competition and contract reform for food animal

producers; 3) programs supporting beginning farmers and ranchers, particularly outreach and training for socially disadvantaged and veteran farmers and ranchers; 4) expanding access to farmland through Federal Tax incentives; and 5) local and regional food systems. In addition, these recommendations require adequate funding in order to ensure appropriate programmatic and regulatory implementation.



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