Ag Outlook 2021

CDFA Secretary Karen Ross
• 13 State Departments of Agriculture facilitate the Farmers Market Nutrition Program
• 11 states facilitate the Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program
• 9 conduct the Farm to School Grant Program
• 4 conduct the National School Lunch Program, School Breakfast Program, Special Milk Program and Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program
• 29 conduct Farm to School Programs
Thanks to FNS for waivers granted during COVID

- Thanks to the USDA for providing flexibilities to our school nutrition teams to ensure our children have access to school meals throughout the pandemic.
- To date, our state has implemented more than 70 waivers, and we know how much effort goes into each of those rules to make them a reality.
- As waivers sunset, we look forward to working with USDA toward extending and continuing this important work.
CDFA’s partnership with CAFB on Farm to Family

• The Farm to Family program has delivered 170 million pounds of fresh fruits and vegetables and 47 million pounds of shelf-stable foods, equivalent to 260,400,000 million meals

• **Snapshot: December 2020**
  • 94 new farmers participating
  • 279 farmers total
  • 13,767,320 pounds of food delivered
  • Compared to 11,762,398 in December 2019
  • Meal equivalent - 16,520,784
Farm to School Grant Program

• Support from California’s First Partner Jennifer Siebel Newsom

• The 2020-21 State Budget allocated $1.5m to invest in the California Farm to School Network, and to facilitate a Farm to School Working Group

• $8.5m one-time allocation to pilot a farm to school incubator grant program

• $10m proposal to expand the farm to school incubator grant program
California Nutrition Incentive Program

• CNIP provides grants to organizations to distribute nutrition incentives at Certified Farmers’ Markets and small businesses
• Benefits low-income shoppers as well as farmers and the local economy
• Incentives are available for shoppers using CalFresh (California’s SNAP benefits), WIC and Senior Farmers’ Market Nutrition Program benefits
• For every benefit dollar they spend, shoppers receive an additional dollar to be spent on California grown fresh fruits and vegetables
• In 2019, CNIP distributed more than $4.2 million in incentives and partner program costs
• 250+ sites – primarily Certified Farmers’ Markets, and also mobile and neighborhood markets, and co-op grocery stores
• Pandemic: grantees implemented creative solutions such as prefilled boxes of produce
Healthy Stores Refrigeration Grants

- Pilot program funds energy-efficient refrigeration units in corner stores and small businesses in low-income/low-access areas to stock California-grown fresh produce, nuts and minimally processed foods
- $4.45m awarded to 57 grantees
- Units in ~215 corner stores and 13 trucks in more than 36 counties
- Grants also to cities, counties and nonprofits giving technical assistance
- Refrigerated trucks facilitate mobile markets and distribution solutions
Senior Farmers’ Market Nutrition Program

- California’s average federal allocation: $761,000
- COVID-19: CDFA partnered with the California Association of Food Banks to distribute produce boxes to low-income seniors
  - 20,242 produce boxes
  - 506,050 pounds of fresh fruits and vegetables
  - 20,000+ seniors served
  - 7 food banks
  - Approximately 27 farmers participated
  - First time our program has achieved 100 percent redemption of food funds
Great Plates Delivered Program

• April 2020: California launched its first-in-the-nation Great Plates Delivered program, a meal delivery service for our older adults

• Great Plates at-a-glance:
  • 23.6m meals served
  • 38,640 individuals currently being served
  • 7,564 jobs supported
  • 19 counties participating
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