

The background features a stylized landscape. The top half consists of several overlapping, semi-transparent green triangles of varying shades, creating a mountain range effect. The bottom half is a solid, textured orange color, representing a field or ground. The text is centered in the orange area.

California Hunger Action Coalition Priorities for Farm Bill

Frank Tamborello

Priority One: Help Low Income Eaters

- Farm Bill includes Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), formerly known as Food Stamps and now called CalFresh in California
- Farm Bill also includes TEFAP (The Emergency Food Assistance Program) and CSFP (Commodity Supplemental Food Program), Farmers Market Nutrition Programs, and other food programs that help low income eaters

Poverty and Hunger in California

- 14.2% of Californians, or 5.2 million, are below the poverty level
- Impact of recession and budget cuts
- SSI cuts over the last three years
- Calworks cuts over the last three years
- Impact of health care cuts

SNAP Program

- US participation is 43.6 million (Feb. 2011)
- California lags behind other states in enrollment
- Program has grown to \$70 billion/annually

California Ranks 49th In SNAP Participation: Comparison with Other Large States

State	Population	SNAP Participants	Percentage of Eligible Participants Enrolled 2008
California	33,871,648	3,466,974	50%
Texas	25,883,999	3,837,839	55%
New York	8,175,133	2,895,995	68%
Florida	18,801,310	2,881,019	64%

Threats to SNAP

- House Budget Plan calls for \$127 billion in cuts over 10 years, or 20% of program
- Plan also calls for Block Granting of program
- Block Grant could result in vastly reduced benefit amounts, waiting lists, tightened eligibility, and consequently more hunger
- June 16 Ag Appropriations Bill cut \$2 billion from SNAP

Protect SNAP as Entitlement
and Do Not Cut Funding

Emergency Food Programs

- TEFAP – The Emergency Food Assistance Program
The June Ag Appropriations bill caps commodity funding at \$200 million, a \$51 million cut from FY 2011
- CSFP---Commodity Supplemental Food Program
Funded at \$138 million in June Ag Appropriations Bill, a \$38 million cut from FY 2011

Priority Two

Local Food Infrastructure

- Farmers' Market and Community Food Promotion
Includes Farmers' Market Nutrition Programs for WIC and Seniors:
Locally Produced Foods
- Community Food Security and Emergency Food Grants
Includes "Hunger Free Community Grants"
- School Meal Issues
Includes Whole Grain Pilot Projects: Buy American: and Survey of
School Food Purchases
- *Reflects priority of Hunger Action Los Angeles : not discussed by California Hunger
Action Coalition

CA Farmers Markets and SNAP

- In 2008 there were 50 CA markets accepting EBT and redemption was \$634,000
- In 2010 there were 111 CA markets accepting EBT and redemption was \$3.5 million
- Source: CA DSS

Priority Three

Help California Specialty Crop Farmers

- California ranks first in specialty crops
- Historically specialty crops have been greatly underfunded
- Rebuilding local food infrastructure can create more markets for California growers and stimulate economy, keeping money in California
- GIPSA rules can help level playing field for local vs. larger producers
- *Reflects priority of Hunger Action Los Angeles : not discussed by California Hunger Action Coalition