

# The Illinois Local Food, Farms, and Jobs Plan

Contained in the 2009 report of  
the Illinois Local & Organic Food & Farm Task Force  
***Growing the Illinois Economy: Local Food, Farms, and Jobs***

[www.foodfarmsjobs.org](http://www.foodfarmsjobs.org)

Commissioned by the State of Illinois General Assembly  
in the Illinois Food, Farms, and Jobs Act of 2007 (HB1300)  
Chief author and sponsor: State Rep. Julie Hamos

## Goals for 2020

1. Coordinate state institution food procurement policies to increase purchase of Illinois local farm and food products at state-funded cafeterias to 20% of total purchases.
2. Support and expand programs that recruit, train, and provide technical assistance to 20,000 Illinois residents (5,000 farmers, 12,500 farm laborers, and 2,500 infrastructure entrepreneurs) to produce, process, and distribute Illinois local farm and food products.
3. Increase the purchase of Illinois local food products by Illinois consumers to 10% of total food dollar expenditures.

## Immediate Implementation Strategies

### **The Illinois General Assembly shall:**

1. Direct state agencies to support and build community-based farm and food networks, and Commission all state agencies to coordinate with local and federal authorities to obtain resources to construct an Illinois local farm and food economy.
2. Create The Illinois Local Food, Farms, and Jobs Council. The Council shall have responsibility to implement the Illinois Local Food, Farms, and Jobs Plan.
3. Direct state agencies to work with the Council in convening an inter-agency committee
4. Direct the Council and the University of Illinois Extension to build the capacity of Extension's Local Food Initiative.
5. Direct the Council to facilitate public-private working groups to eliminate unnecessary and contradictory local, municipal, state, and federal regulatory barriers to production, processing, and marketing of local farm and food products in Illinois.
6. Direct the Council to work with state agencies to reform state institution food procurement policies and track and report their local food purchases on an annual basis.

### **The Illinois Local Food, Farms, and Jobs Council shall**

7. Facilitate accessibility by farmers to public and private lands for growing local farm and food products.
8. Support financial and business planning education for farmers, farm labor, and entrepreneurs

# Assessment of Obstacles and Strategies for Solutions for Building an Illinois Local Food, Farms, and Jobs Economy

The obstacles and solutions section below represents the complete findings of the Task Force committees in their work to carry out the Task Force mandate. The obstacles inform the reasons why Illinois agriculture produces only a small percentage of the food that Illinois consumers eat each year. The strategies for solution indicate the action steps required to expand the capacity of Illinois agriculture so as to capture in-state a significantly larger share of Illinois consumers' food dollars. The obstacles and solution strategies are divided into categories of production, infrastructure, customer access, public awareness, and systems building.

## A. PRODUCTION

### **OBSTACLE 1: Not Enough Farmers**

— Support programs that recruit, train, and provide technical assistance in order to create 5,000 new local food farmers by 2020

### **OBSTACLE 2: Not Enough Farm Labor**

— Create farm labor training programs

### **OBSTACLE 3: Insufficient access to farmland by aspiring local farm and food producers**

- Support and facilitate creative arrangements for using public lands for local farm and food production
- Create a farmer transition support committee
- Support local and regional land conservation movements
  - Work with land trusts.
  - Establish a standing Illinois Farmland Committee.

### **OBSTACLE 4: Lack of support for diversified farm production**

— Create knowledge bases and support infrastructures for diversified local farm and food production:

Agri-tourism	Cosmetic industry	Dairy and dairy products
Eggs	Fiber	Fish
Fruits and Vegetables	Forestry products	Grains
Herbs	Honey	Meats
Ornamental plants	Recreation	Renewable energy
Seed, seedlings & saplings	Soil amendments & services	Wine, Beer, Distillates

— Create linkages between local farm and food producers

## B. INFRASTRUCTURE

### **OBSTACLE 5: Systems for moving products from farm to market are inadequate**

— Support development of regional aggregating, processing, storage, packaging, and distribution centers

## **C. CUSTOMER ACCESS**

### **OBSTACLE 6: Farmers have limited knowledge, access, and/or trust in current market opportunities**

- Establish a local food procurement process for state institutions
- Leveraging state purchasing power to enhance direct- market opportunities

### **OBSTACLE 7: Customers have limited access to local farm and food products**

- Increase community access points for the purchase of fresh food

## **D. SYSTEMS BUILDING**

### **OBSTACLE 8: Benefits of a local farm and food economy are not widely known by the general public**

- Create public awareness campaigns that share with every Illinois community the benefits of an Illinois local food, farms, and jobs economy

### **OBSTACLE 9: Local farm and food entrepreneurs have limited knowledge about how to nance their enterprises**

- Establish positive working relationships with financial institutions
- Maximize capital access through participation in state-sponsored farm financing programs
- Develop creative financing approaches in concert with private and public lending institutions
- Tap all available federal financing resources

### **OBSTACLE 10: Regulatory barriers impede growth**

- Create an inter-agency coordinating committee to streamline regulations
- Recognize small farms' inherent value to a community

### **OBSTACLE 11: Producers and entrepreneurs have insufficient access to relevant and/or coordinated data**

- Create a source for comprehensive local farm and food information

### **OBSTACLE 12: Local farm and food resource centers are limited**

- Begin, support, and/or expand programs
- Build the capacity of University of Illinois Extension's local food programs

### **OBSTACLE 13: Local farm and food producers and entrepreneurs are isolated**

- Create, facilitate, and support local farm and food action groups
- Create, facilitate, and support communities of practice to support local farm and food action groups.
- Create an Illinois Local Food, Farms, and Jobs Council

## Virginia: Candidates who will Resist & Regenerate

Activists in our local Resist & Regenerate Meetup groups are “adopting” candidates for House of Delegates. They volunteer to find out who’s running where they live, and where the candidates stand on the issues. Then they let the other members of the Resist & Regenerate group know about the next upcoming opportunity to meet with the candidate.

### Questions

1. Do you support strong standards for certified organic food & farming?
2. Do you support public programs to get local organic food to children and vulnerable populations?
3. Do you support laws requiring food companies to truthfully and accurately label all of the ingredients in their products, including those produced using genetic engineering, nanotechnology, synthetic biology, and other novel technologies?
4. Should the state provide technical and financial assistance to farmers to encourage the use of organic and regenerative agriculture practices, like cover crops and holistic management, which increase soil fertility and the nutritional density of foods?
5. Do you support the right of localities to make decisions on food, farming, and land/resource/water-use, including how to regulate raw milk, GMOs, pesticides, factory farms, fracking, and pipelines?
6. Should regulators apply the “precautionary principle” when reviewing agricultural chemicals and foods made with new technologies? In other words, require pre-market safety testing, rather than adopting a wait-and-see approach to potential health and environmental impacts?
7. Do you believe all healthcare programs should cover preventive and natural healthcare choices, such as midwifery/home birth, homeopathy, naturopathy, nutrition therapist, acupuncture, physical therapy, and chiropractic medicine?
8. Do you support “Health Freedom”, the right of consumers to choose the type of healthcare they want, including the right to opt out on behalf of themselves or their minor children of vaccine programs they consider to be potentially harmful to their health?
9. Do you believe that human activity plays a primary role in global warming and that addressing climate change should be a high priority?
10. Do you support policies that reward farmers and ranches who use practices (sometimes referred to as carbon farming) that draw down carbon from the atmosphere and store it in the soil?

Let’s find out where every one of Virginia’s 2017 candidates stand on critical food, farming, natural health, and environmental issues.

# Maine's Farmers and Farm Workers List of Needs

by Bob St. Peter  
Bough Road Farm  
Sedgwick, Maine  
December 2013

1. Secure land and homes without oppressive mortgages
2. Democratic land trusts responsive to the needs of today's farmers, their families, and low-income rural residents
3. Preferential purchasing (60-75% market share) from public schools and institutions
4. Student debt forgiveness in exchange for farm work or food service, particularly for people in need
5. Living wages for all farm jobs
6. Affordable, scale-appropriate equipment & technical assistance to support sustainable farming and food production practices
7. Reliable transportation
8. Anti-trust enforcement in dairy, seeds, poultry, beef, pork, retail grocery
9. Scale-appropriate regulation and local control of food policy
10. Local & regional processing and storage infrastructure
11. Health care, including preventative body care therapies
12. Child care
13. Democratic and transparent philanthropy accountable to the people it serves

From **Elizabeth Henderson** who worked on this platform (New York)

## **SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE AND FOOD JUSTICE**

Howie Hawkins platform (2010) - Green Party  
Candidate for Governor, New York State

Food is a necessity and a fundamental human right. All people have a right to sufficient, safe, and nutritional food.. Those who produce it have a right to a fair return for their labor. Food should be produced in an ecologically sustainable manner.

New York is a major agricultural state: 1st in yogurt, cottage cheese, cream cheese, and sour cream; 2nd in apples, wine, maple syrup, and cabbage; 3rd in milk, corn for silage, and grapes; 4th for tart cherries and pears. Most New York farms are family farms, with a 200 acre average that is about half the national average. Milk production accounts for nearly half of New York's agricultural sales.

New York's cities and farms depend on each other for food and markets. But less than 10% of NYS food production is sold direct to consumers.

Farmer and consumers are natural allies. The government should represent the interests of farmers and consumers instead of the corporate oligopolies of the food and agriculture industry. Giant vertically-integrated food and agricultural corporations stand in the middle marketing, processing, wholesaling, distributing, and retailing to make monopolistic profits by squeezing both farmers and consumers. Much can be done to more directly connect farmers and consumers and minimize middleman costs.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture reports that more than two million New Yorkers, 12% of the population, do not have enough money to meet their basic nutritional needs. Over one-third of New York's residents have incomes at or below 200% of the federal poverty level and may be eligible for federal food assistance programs such as SNAP. But these programs do not adjust for New York State's higher costs for housing, utilities and food.

A strong agricultural economy is the basis for revitalizing rural economies, repopulating rural communities, and supplying our cities with healthy food. Agriculture provides the value added that fuels commerce in the towns. It should fuel the expansion of clean green manufacturing based on biodegradable food, fuel, and fiber feedstocks. Agriculture maintains the rural landscape that is the foundation for tourism and recreation, including hunting and fishing.

### **SUPPORT FAMILY FARMS**

1. Guarantee a Living Income for Working Farmers
2. Empower Family Farmers in Marketing and Processing Agricultural Products
3. Tax Relief for Farmers
4. Phase Out CAFOs
5. End Corporate Farming
6. New Farmer Training
7. Land and Financing for New Farmers
8. Enact a Farmworkers Bill of Rights

### **PROTECT FARMLAND**

1. Farmland Protection Fund
2. Environmental Protection Fund
3. Ban Fracking

## **EXPAND AND IMPROVE MARKETS FOR FARM PRODUCTS**

1. Collective Bargaining by Farmers
2. State Procurement of Local Farm Products
3. Regional Food Processing and Distribution
4. Expand the Certified Raw Milk Market
5. Expand Green Manufacturing

## **RE-LEGALIZE INDUSTRIAL HEMP**

1. Enable Hemp Research
2. Re-legalize hemp in New York
3. Defend Hemp Growers
4. Demand that the federal government re-legalize hemp.

## **INCREASE CONSUMER ACCESS TO HEALTHY FOOD**

1. Public School Education
2. Community Food Projects Competitive Grant Program (CFP)
3. New York Healthy Food and Health Communities Fund
4. Farm to Table Program
5. Soda Tax
6. Urban Farms

## **RESTRICT GMOs**

1. GMO Labeling
2. GMO Moratorium

## **TRANSITION TO ORGANIC AGRICULTURE**

1. Ban Neonicotinoids
2. Ban Antibiotics in Animal Feed
3. Organic Agriculture Transition Plan
4. Agriculture School Support
5. State Procurement

## **FAIR LABOR PRACTICES FOR FARM WORKERS**

1. Enact a Farmworkers Bill of Rights
2. Halt the ICE Raids
3. Drivers Licenses for Undocumented Workers

## **END HUNGER**

1. Hunger Prevention and Nutrition Assistance Program
2. Increase SNAP Benefits
3. Raise the Maximum SNAP Shelter Deduction
4. Increase Child Nutrition Funding
5. Increase Funding for Meals on Wheels for Senior Citizens

From **Mark Dunlea** (New York)

## **Howie Hawkins platform (2010) - Green Party Candidate for Governor, New York State**

Here is a platform that I helped develop for Howie Hawkins in 2010, the Green Party candidate for Governor in NY who got 5% of the vote in 2014 in his second run) I was working with the Hunger Action Network of the time and helped coordinate NYC work around the farm bill. Liz Henderson of NOFA also contributed ideas

I would probably add more around climate these days, including support for regenerative agriculture. We got some funding in the NYS budget this year for this. California is further ahead.

[http://www.gpny.org/hawkins\\_for\\_governor\\_on\\_nys\\_ag\\_food\\_policy\\_agenda](http://www.gpny.org/hawkins_for_governor_on_nys_ag_food_policy_agenda)

*Hawkins supports a shift towards organic farming, ending the use of toxic pesticides, herbicides and fertilizers, and strengthening NYS Food Policy Council*

*Government Ag Policies Need to Shift towards helping family farms and promoting healthier foods*

1. helping farmers transition to meet the demands presented by climate change and peak oil.
2. appoint a Commissioner of Agriculture and Markets with a strong track record in organic farming, community food security, farmland preservation, Community Supported Agriculture, and support for family farms.
3. help small and medium size farmers with issues such as small-case food processing, local marketing and distribution (including regional wholesale farmers markets), and transportation.
4. legislation to establish NYS Food Policy Council by law rather than Executive Order, including the creation of a strong advisory Board to ensure broad participation by a wide range of groups, including community food security advocates who are largely missing from the present Food Policy Council.
5. establishment of regional and city Food Policy Councils across the state, along with a greater recognition of food systems as an integral part of economic development.
6. farmland preservation in metro areas
7. dairy farmers, as the largest segment of the state's agriculture system, receive more economic support
8. set standards for the government purchase of locally grown and organic foods under the Sustainability Executive Order for state contracts issued by Governor Spitzer.
9. New York City also needs to promote more leadership in establishing standards for local foods since they serve more than one millions per day.
10. fair contract legislation modeled after that in Iowa so that farmers who have to sell to large corporate entities can associate with other farmers to bargain as groups, have the right to share information about the contract offered by a company with family, lawyers and other farmers, and have support in appealing unfair decisions by the corporations they sell to.
11. rapid phase-out of CAFOs (confined animal feeding operations) in New York State and the creation of more in-state small-scale meat processors to process livestock from small-scale farms.

## **Colia Clark, the Green Party nominee for US Senate in New York**

1. returning to a common sense educational curriculum which trains and prepares all youth in food production and agribusiness practices.
2. The US Congress must play a major role in making sure that the funds necessary to reclaim our agriculture sector for American families and communities away from huge agriculture corporations is made available.
3. It is also urgent that any legislation for farmers in New York State include critical protection for farmer workers guaranteeing them fair competitive wages, right to organize, full health care and decent housing."

From **Mark Dunlea** (New York)

## **Green Party - National platform**

### **Compiled by Denis Spisak, Green Party of Ohio Nominee for Governor**

Below are some of the additional proposals advanced by the Green party nationally to reform the nation's agriculture system.

1. Establish the highest organic standards and reject the routine use of hormones and antibiotics in animal feed.
2. Shift price supports and government subsidies to organic food products so that they will be competitive with chemically produced food.
3. Phase out man-made pesticides and artificial fertilizers, as well as a ban on sewage sludge and hazardous wastes as fertilizers.  
— promote locally or regionally produced, organic composting systems.
4. Educate farmers about best practices and support their transition to organic farming.

#### ***Safe, local and organic food for all***

1. Localize our food system and decentralize agriculture lands, production, and distribution. We support the creation of land trusts for much of our farmland and encourage public support for producer and consumer cooperatives, community kitchens, Community Supported Agriculture, urban agriculture, and community farms and gardens.
2. public education to encourage people to reduce their consumption of animal foods, including information on healthy vegetarian diets.

#### ***Democratic oversight and consumer power***

1. Phase out all public subsidies to large agribusiness conglomerates and redirect the subsidies to small and medium-sized farms that promote local organic production and sustainable agricultural practices.
2. Ensure that food prices reflect the true cost of food production, including the health effects of eating processed foods, antibiotic resistance, pesticide effects on growers and consumers, soil erosion, water pollution, pesticide drift, air pollution and the vast inefficiency and ecological footprint involved in the production of animal foods.

#### ***Biodiversity and the Environment***

1. Promote the restoration of formerly traditional food crops, as well as innovative farm production methods, such as permaculture, polyculture and terra preta.
2. Enact a moratorium on irradiated food and genetically modified organisms (GMOs) until safety can be conclusively demonstrated by independent (non-corporate funded), long-term tests  
— eliminate patent rights for genetic material, lifeforms, gene-splicing techniques, and biochemicals derived from them.
3. rapid phase out of confined animal feeding operations (CAFOs)  
— create more small-scale meat processors to process livestock from small-scale farms.
4. We support the elimination of public subsidies to finance livestock grazing permits on public lands.
5. Promote the widespread growth and use of hemp for industrial purposes.

# Pro-Farmer State Strategy: Reconcile Farm Justice with Sustainability

by Brad Wilson (Iowa)

JULY 20, 2017 / BRAD4FARMJUSTICE

<https://familyfarmjustice.me/2017/07/20/pro-farmer-state-strategy-reconcile-farm-justice-with-sustainability/>

Here is a proposal for state level strategy to take back the rural vote and fix the farm and food system. It counteracts key approaches through which the Republicans have been winning the farm vote, even though they're policies and programs have been devastating for farmers and the rural economy, (not to mention environment, climate, public health, animal welfare, and other concerns). The economy was a top priority for voters last time around, and it's the place where Democrats, and especially progressives, were weak. On the other hand, a focus on the rural economy is probably the most winnable thing that Democrats, especially progressives, can do.

## WHAT TO DO

### – ECONOMICS

A major key to winning is to beat the Republicans (and compromising Democrats) on farm economics. Emphasizing farm and rural economics is much more important to taking back the rural vote than the lists of other progressive issues, (no matter how excellent, i.e. on organic and local food). While many issues are well geared to getting support from those who will vote for you anyway, what's been missing are leaders who ALSO can take back significant chunks of the rural vote.

### – QUESTIONS

The key is to fix things in ways that clearly help farmers, that are clearly pro-farmer. So look at what rural candidates are doing and saying, for example at the state level, and ask them:

- 1. What are you doing for farmers and the rural economy?***
- 2. Do you support that system, (do you support the 4 corporations,) including Chinese ownership of US hogs?***
- 3. Do you believe that deregulated free markets work for agriculture?***

### – PLANK

- 1. Whereas the state and national farm economy has been devastated by decades of increasingly counterproductive Republican policies and programs, my plan to help farmers (at the state level) is to reverse the pro-CAFO policies and programs, and provide new incentives in the opposite direction.***

Ultimately, I want much more than a moratorium on CAFOs. I want to see strong incentives to bring livestock out of CAFOs and back to farms, and in diversified ways, where they utilize grass, alfalfa and clover, to strongly support resource conserving crop rotations, giving farmers more freedom, and especially, reducing the costs of farming, by reducing the need to purchase fertilizers and pesticides.

- 2. Whereas free markets have lead to a devastating loss of freedom for farmers, including the loss of the livestock option on most farms and the loss of the options for the best resource conserving, multi-year crop rotations, making farmers much more dependent on both the agribusiness output***

*complex, (buying from farmers,) and the agribusiness input complex, (selling to farmers,) with the CAFO complex taking most value added livestock away from farmers, ...*

**3. Whereas CAFOs hurt rural (Illinois) public health, environments, economies and communities, we/I support a reversal to all incentives for CAFOs, including economic incentives, lenient regulations and nuisance lawsuit protections, and in contrast we support measures in support of family-farm-sized and diversified farms.**

**4. Whereas (Illinois/US/etc.) livestock production is increasingly owned by a tiny number of giant corporations, including the Chinese, (Shuanghui International,) massively taking value-added livestock away from diversified family-sized farms, leaving them with only low-value corn and soybean production, thus devastating resilience and making farms more dependent upon purchases of inputs from giant corporations, we support measures that will bring livestock diversity back to most independent family-sized farms.**

## **WHAT NOT TO DO**

The key thing NOT to do is blame the problems ultimately on farmers, or limit solutions to those that further penalize farmers.

### **– WHAT HURTS FARMERS IS WHAT HURTS SMALL TOWNS**

Cheap farm prices, the loss of value added livestock on most farms (to the Chinese, the Brazillians, etc.) and the loss of the freedom and flexibility of livestock systems and diverse crop rotations is what hurts small towns in massive ways, as has been massively documented.

### **– FARM SUBSIDIES!**

**ECONOMIC CAUSE.** Government subsidies DO NOT subsidize CAFOs (and junk food and export dumpers)! Do not fall for that.

**POLITICAL CAUSE.** So the primary POLITICAL cause of CAFO (junk food, export dumping,) free market subsidization is the reduction (1953-1995) and elimination (1996-2018) of the core market management programs at the federal level.

The 2 key proposals to fix that are the NFFC farm bill, (Food from Family Farms Act,) and the National Farmers Union (NFU) farm bill, (Market Driven Inventory System), plus a similar NFFC proposal for dairy (and a proposal for dairy supply management related to this was introduced in Congress last time around). <https://zcomm.org/zblogs/primer-farm-justice-proposals-for-the-2012-farm-bill-by-brad-wilson/>

### **– EXTRA: KEY DILEMMAS — SUBSIDIES, DEREGULATION, AND BEYOND**

So don't advocate ONLY against subsidies, deregulation, tax breaks, etc., to be divided and conquered, as in the loss of the rural vote last time. Reconcile the dilemmas to take a significant portion of votes away from the Trump Republicans.

Republicans grab all of these dilemmas by only one horn, and all too often, successively sell that to farmers. So in the end, the one-horned proposals of Republicans always hurt farmers, but they always make it look like it's pro-farmer, (for lack of adequate opposition). The state strategies I've proposed here are designed to counteract that.

From **Patti (Edwardson) Naylor** (Iowa)

## **National-Global Platform**

League of Women in Food and Ag, <https://www.leagueofwomeninfood.org/>

I am a farmer, and I see that what is missing from most of these documents is the broader concern of agricultural economics. We must support our farmers, and the best way we can do that is with parity. Parity would give farmers an just income in the form of a price floor on commodities that would also need to include supply management. The externalized costs of our relatively cheap food supply would no longer exist. Animals would be put back on pasture instead of being in confinements when the cost of feed reflects the price farmers get paid. Farmers of all crops would benefit from this policy. Organic, sustainable, regenerative, and resilient practices would be incorporated into the system.

"Do you support parity for farmers" would be my first question.

Trade issues also must be a part of the conversation. It doesn't matter what an American farmer grows, she or he is impacted by trade policies, often negatively. More over, trade policies affect farmers throughout the world as corporations and agribusiness control so much of how and what food is grown and the price it is valued at.

"Do you support food sovereignty for all people" would be my second question. If yes, I would follow with "how would you define food sovereignty and what do you think it would look like in communities around the world?"

### **League of Women in Food and Agriculture Open Letter to 2017 U.S. Cabinet DEAR SECRETARIES**

As a group of 1,000 women leaders in food and agriculture, we congratulate you on your appointments.

Like you, we care about food, farming, public health, and the ability of all Americans to access nourishing and affordable food. What our nation grows, harvests, cooks and eats deeply affects our economy, our health, our environment, our national security and the future of our children.

We face immense challenges in our food, agriculture and ocean systems.

Currently, much of our food is cheap at the point of sale, but costly to public health and the environment. Our food system disproportionately burdens low-income people and divides our country. Every year, our nation spends \$500 billion treating obesity, diabetes, and other chronic diseases that are directly related to what we eat.

We need to create good, fair jobs in food and agriculture, and labor and immigration policies that protect farm and food workers and meet the needs of farm owners. It is imperative that we encourage agricultural practices that protect our farmland, air, water, soil, oceans, and natural spaces, especially in light of climate change. We must support independent family farms, responsible ocean management and foster diverse, resilient farm and food systems.

We are leaders from every state in the Union and have dedicated our lives to addressing these issues. We stand ready to work with you.

Sent by **Navina Khanna**, HEAL (California)

**Plate of the Union - a national platform**  
Developed by HEAL Food Alliance and Food Policy Action  
<http://www.plateoftheunion.com>

## **1. Grow More Organic Food**

**PROBLEM:**

**AMERICANS DON'T INVEST ENOUGH IN GROWING HEALTHY AND ORGANIC FOOD.**

**SOLUTION:**

**IT'S TIME TO INVEST MORE IN FOOD BETTER FOR OUR HEALTH AND LESS IN THE PESTICIDE INDUSTRY.**

## **2. Invest in Healthy Farms**

**Invest in Clean Water and Healthy Animals**

**PROBLEM:**

**BIG AG'S FACTORY FARMS ARE POLLUTING OUR ENVIRONMENT AND MAKING US SICK.**

**SOLUTION:**

**STOP SUBSIDIZING POLLUTERS AND CLOSE PUBLIC HEALTH LOOPHOLES.**

## **3. Fight Hunger and Food Insecurity**

**PROBLEM:**

**THERE ARE MORE THAN 46 MILLION HUNGRY AMERICANS AND FOOD ASSISTANCE BENEFITS ARE INADEQUATE.**

**SOLUTION:**

**PROTECT – AND IMPROVE – CRUCIAL PROGRAMS TO HELP HUNGRY AMERICANS ACCESS HEALTHY FOOD FOR THEIR FAMILIES.**

## **4. Invest in Revitalized, Healthy Communities**

**Revitalize Land and Reduce Food Waste**

**PROBLEM:**

**THE NEEDS AND CHALLENGES FOR COMMUNITIES HAVE BEEN LEFT OUT OF THE FOOD POLICY EQUATION, HURTING EDUCATION, ACCESS, NUTRITION AND THE ENVIRONMENT.**

**SOLUTION:**

**INVEST IN HEALTHY COMMUNITIES.**

Sent by Navina Khanna, HEAL (California)

## **HEAL Food Alliance a national platform**

An alliance of 3 organizations:

Food Chain Workers Alliance  
Real Food Challenge  
Union of Concerned Scientists

<http://healfoodalliance.org/strategy/the-real-food-platform/>

### **Motivation:**

Food is our most intimate and powerful connection to each other, to our cultures, and to the earth, and to transform our food system is to take one giant step towards healing our bodies, our economy, and our environment.

Our understanding of the necessary changes is rooted in two conditions:

- Concentration of market and political power in the hands of few agri-food companies
- The legacy and current reality of racism

### **Economy**

1. Dignity for workers and their families
2. Opportunities for all producers
3. Fair and competitive markets
4. Regional economies

### **Health**

5. Dump the Junk: Regulate the marketing of junk food and beverages
6. Increase food literacy
7. Make real food the norm

### **Environment**

8. Phase out factory farming
9. Sustainable farming, fishing, ranching
10. Close the loop on waste, runoff, and energy