



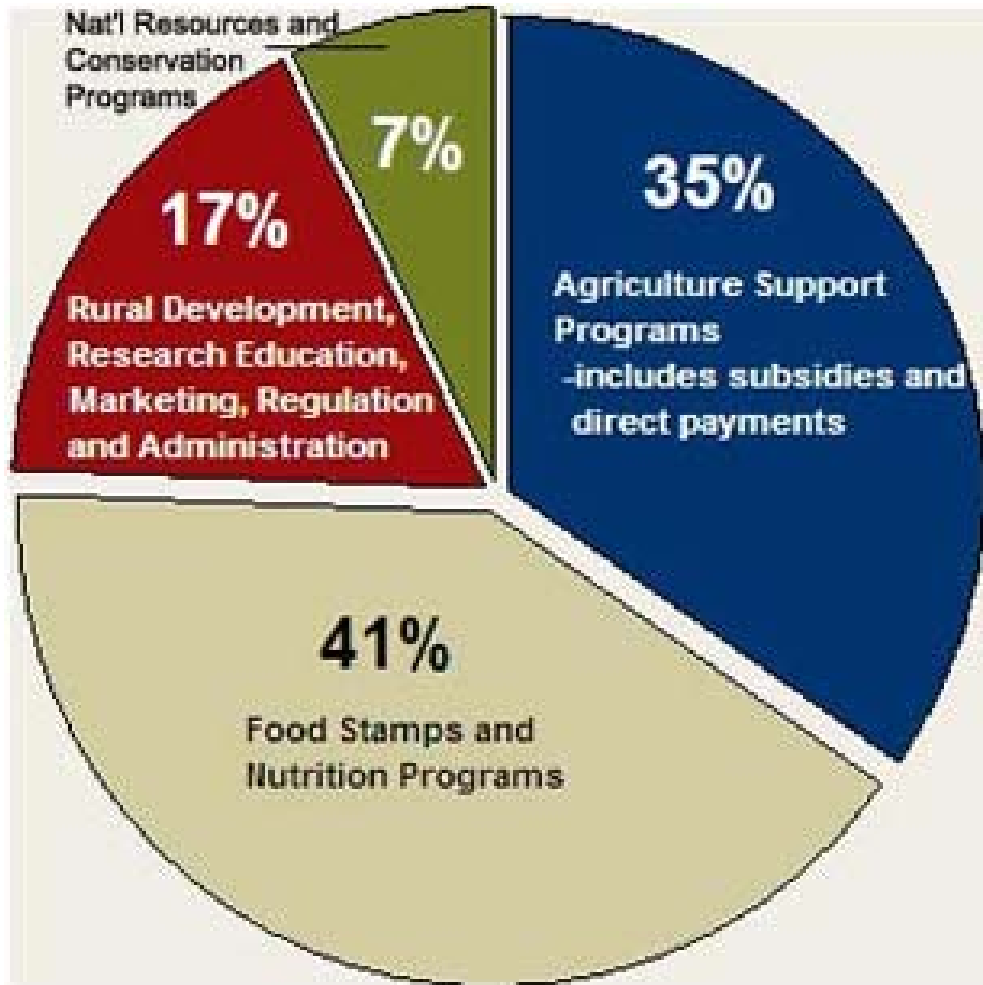
2008 Farm Bill Bringing Changes to California's Food And Nutrition Programs

**A Presentation by Jessica Bartholow
Director of Programs
California Association of Food Banks
BANPAC - September 2008**



About the Farm Bill

- Comes up every 7 years in order to reauthorize spending in several programs.
- With 14 Titles, includes nutrition programs, food security, conservation, energy, forestry, trade and farming programs.
- The 2008 Farm Bill was passed in June and will go into affect beginning October 1st.





What the Farm Bill Didn't Do

- **Make massive reforms in the farm subsidy programs (i.e. ending corn and cotton subsidies).**
- **Make massive reforms in the existing nutrition programs (i.e. adopting the low-cost food plan instead of the thrifty food plan as a bases for determining benefit levels).**



What the Farm Bill Did Do

- **Made some simple to administer, needed reforms to the Food Stamp Program, the country's largest and most important anti-hunger program.**
- **Made allowances for much needed increases in funding for other nutrition programs.**
- **Created new programs supporting produce promotion and distribution to children and calling for more research on this topic.**



Changes to the Food Stamp Program

- **Ends erosion in the purchasing power of food stamps.**
- **Supports working-poor families by eliminating the cap on the dependent care deduction.**
- **Supports recipients' ability to save by improving the program's resource limit rules.**
- **Simplifies administration of the program for participants and states.**
- **Renames and update the Food Stamp Program.**



Allowances for Other Nutrition Programs

- **Increases to the Emergency Food Assistance Program (EFAP) – which is routed through food banks.**
- **Continuation of Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP) and Senior Farmer’s Market Program.**
- **Makes preferences in purchase of local food for Federal Distribution Program on Indian Reservation (FDPIR).**
- **Allows for infrastructure grants for rural food banks.**



New Support for Fruit & Vegetables

- **Mandatory funding for *Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program* with additional \$40 million in FY 2008 – growing to \$150 million in FY 2011.**
- **Authorizes gardening pilot programs at "high-poverty" schools in up to 5 States through.**
- **Allows use of geographic preference when procuring.**
- **Mandates that \$20 million for each of FY 2008-12 to develop a point-of-purchase pilot project.**



New Support for Fruit & Vegetables Cont.

- **Farmers Market Promotion Program to help establish and promote farmers' markets and implement market development projects: *\$33 million over five years.***
- **Community Food Projects Program helps organizations address local hunger, nutrition and food access issues by connecting low-income people with fresh foods direct from local community: *mandatory \$5 m over 10 years.***
- **New Healthy Urban Food Enterprise Development Center established.**



What About Nutrition Education?

The 2008 Farm Bill continues requirements for non federal matching funds, but specifically makes nutrition education activities a component of legislation and gives States discretion to implement nutrition education programs directed at individuals who receive or are eligible for program benefits.



What's Next?

- **Still some work to do to implement 2002 Farm Bill in California.**
- **Outreach about new Farm Bill Provisions – especially to families with child care costs.**
- **Bring as many of the newly authorized programs to California.**
- **Move attention to Child Nutrition Reauthorization.**
- **Start planning for next Farm Bill!**



Thanks!

For More Information

Jessica Bartholow

California Association of Food Banks

jessica@cafoodbanks.org

<http://www.cafarmbill.org>