



Farmers Feeding Families – Coronavirus Response Act

To allow state agencies to make short term food purchases by accessing federal funding under the Emergency Food System.

Food banks are struggling to meet increasing demand at the same time traditional emergency food supply chains are drying up, food is being wasted, and farmers are seeking alternative markets with a majority of schools, restaurants, and hotels closed throughout the country. While states anticipate receiving additional commodities through TEFAP and related federal programs, states need alternative means to continue to address food insecurity and assist farmers during this time.

In order to bolster the ability of food banks and food assistance programs to meet the needs of the growing numbers of food insecure, while also providing much needed additional funding for purchases from small and medium farmers, the ***Farmers Feeding Families – Coronavirus Response Act*** would:

- Ensure money is set aside from federal funding for targeted purchases to buy food from producers who rely on local agricultural food marketing – such as farmers markets, farm-to-table restaurants and farm-to-school programs – but have seen those opportunities diminish due to COVID-19.
- Send additional funds directly to States so state agencies and their food-bank partners can directly and immediately replenish their food stocks to meet the increased demand rather than wait several months to receive donations through the federally administered program.
- Funding would allow States to respond quickly and support producers with surplus supplies, which are especially at risk for perishable foods at risk of going to waste

As COVID-19 forces people out of work, we have seen an uptick of families using food banks. More and more people are using this aid for the first time. Food banks are struggling to meet increasing demand while traditional emergency food supply chains are drying up and small and medium sized farmers are struggling to find new outlets to sell their crops with schools, restaurants, hotels and other food service entities closed across the country.

The ***Farmers Feeding Families – Coronavirus Response Act*** is supported by: the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, Feeding Pennsylvania, Pennsylvania Association for Sustainable Agriculture, Center for Dairy Excellence, Feeding America and the National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition

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