



# Arizona Department of Agriculture

Office of the Director  
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November 9, 2017

Director Mark Killian  
Arizona Department of Agriculture  
1688 West Adams Street  
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Dear Director:

This letter is a follow up to the letter dated October 5, 2017 sent to you by Sharma Torrens. As you know, the Food & Agriculture Policy Advisory Committee (FAPAC) was tasked with making recommendations to you as the Director to tackle food access issues. Please note that the below recommendations are short-term goals, the FAPAC has other mid and long-term goals that it seeks to address. Additionally, a PowerPoint (PP) providing more details on these recommendations is attached and referenced throughout.

I wanted to expand on the FAPAC recommendations sent to you in the letter of October 5<sup>th</sup> referenced above.

Please see the below:

- 1) Expand the existing state food donation incentive statute (A.R.S. § 43-1025) to include all food donations, especially dairy, poultry, beef and fresh animal protein and also have the AZDA dedicate staff to promote these Arizona-Grown food access opportunities, Good Samaritan Laws, and connect food donors to food banks (page 3 of the PP);
- 2) Provide funding to food banks, non-profit organizations, agricultural food cooperatives and the Double up Food Bucks (DUFBS) food programs and direct access to the DUFBS program (pages 2 and 4 of the PP);
- 3) Empower sustained Arizona Agriculture Food Production (page 10 of the PP);
- 4) Streamline state and county health guidelines, reducing cumbersome and costly third party certifications (page 6 of the PP);

- 5) Endorse cultivating a strong regional food system and partner with statewide coordination of existing Food Policy Councils;
- 6) Organize regular events to gather all in the production and distribution of food to gather and share information and concerns and report back to the FAPAC and educate the community (page 9 of the PP);
- 7) Consider subsidies, microloans and education for new and small farmers (page 5 of the PP);
- 8) Create a one-stop shop page on the AZDA website focused on increasing access to healthy food (page 8 of the PP).

Overall, the recommendation themes for the three subcommittees were the following: (a) Funding (DUFB, expanded state food donation tax incentive, Public Private Partnerships funding for food banks, etc., and subsidies, microloans and other financing options); (b) Removing barrier health regulations, including but not limited to for food production, transportation and expanded co-op definition (page 7 of the PP); (c) have an AZDA clearinghouse (dedicated staff member and website; promote AZ Grown food access & procurement, promote tax incentive and Good Samaritan laws, coordinate statewide food system coalitions) (page 8 of the PP); and (d) land and water use.

Again, please reference the attached PowerPoint for detail. The FAPAC would respectfully request the AZDA implement the above recommendations to the best of its ability.

Sincerely,



Sine Kerr  
Chair, Food and Agriculture Policy Advisory Committee

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# **Food & Agriculture Policy Advisory Council Recommendations**

ADOPTED SEPTEMBER 6, 2017

FOR CONSIDERATION BY DIRECTOR MARK KILLIAN

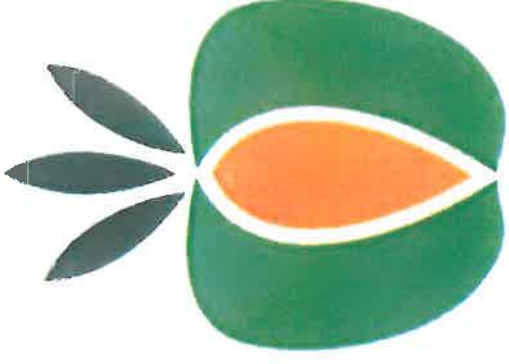


# Ending Hunger

## Support Double Up Food Bucks & Local Farmers

- State matching funds for the Double Up AZ program leverages federal funds with existing foundation and donor funding to increase SNAP benefits for fruit & vegetable purchases at Farmer's Markets and grocery stores.
- Double Up Food Bucks provides access to healthy Arizona grown food by those who need it by incentivizing the purchase of produce grown by Arizona producers.
- The program promotes economic development in rural Arizona by supporting small scale growers who typically are struggling to make their businesses profitable.
- The program creates new sales opportunities for local farmers.
- This increases demand for local produce and builds local economies.

**Proposal: Fund direct access to Arizona-grown food through the Double Up Food Bucks program.**



# DOUBLE UP ARIZONA



# Ending Hunger

## Expand the State Food Donation Tax Incentive

**Problem: Emergency food providers that rely on food donations have difficulty sourcing product, especially dairy, poultry, and fresh animal protein.**

✓ Food banks source product from food drives, grocery stores, farmers and growers, produce houses, manufacturers, food service companies, and other industry partners.

✓ Existing state law provides a tax incentive for any contribution of a crop or portion of a crop grown in Arizona by a taxpayer engaged in the trade or business of farming or processing agriculture crops to a charitable organization located in Arizona.

✓ Unlike produce, animal protein can be frozen and resold at a later date with little depreciation, making it less likely to be donated to food banks.

✓ The Department of Revenue does not have recent reports relating to the charitable crop contribution since the tax impact was historically low, but the most recent note showed \$0 claimed in Tax Year 2001 and a high of \$370,000 claimed in TY96.

**Proposal:**  
**Expand ARS 43-1025 to include all food donations, especially dairy, poultry, and fresh animal protein**



# Ending Hunger

## Explore Public-Private Funding for Healthy Arizona-Grown Food



- Arizona has 4 members of the Feeding America network: Community Food Bank of Southern Arizona, St. Mary's Food Bank Alliance, United Food Bank & Yuma Community Food Bank.
- Collectively, they serve more than 1,400 other agencies statewide such as food pantries, community and senior centers, domestic and homeless shelters, schools, and churches.
- Building agency capacity through direct funding to food banks helps serve areas of unmet need throughout Arizona.

**Proposal: Provide funding to food banks, nonprofit agencies, agriculture food co-ops**





# Ending Hunger

## Promote & Create the Next Generation of Farmers & Ranchers

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**Proposal:**  
**Consider subsidies,  
microloans, and other  
financing options.**



# Ending Hunger

## Unify State & County Health Guidelines

**Problem: County-by-county health regulations are inhibiting Arizona-grown products to be more easily accessed throughout Arizona**

✔ Feeding back small-scale rural producers and from the Arizona Food Summit showed producers in Yavapai and Coconino Counties have found it cumbersome and costly to meet different county health regulations if the county where their product is produced is different than the county where their product is sold, including to schools, restaurants, and farmers markets

✔ Yavapai County Community Health Services has issued new guidance that enables local purchases of locally-grown products without requiring costly and time-consuming third-party certification.

✔ Collaborations between local agriculture coalitions, economic development initiatives, food safety councils, and Cooperative Extension ensure food safety while increasing food access.

✔ Focus on the Produce Safety Rule in the context of the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA)

**Proposal:**  
**Unify state and county health guidelines, reducing cumbersome and costly third party certifications.**

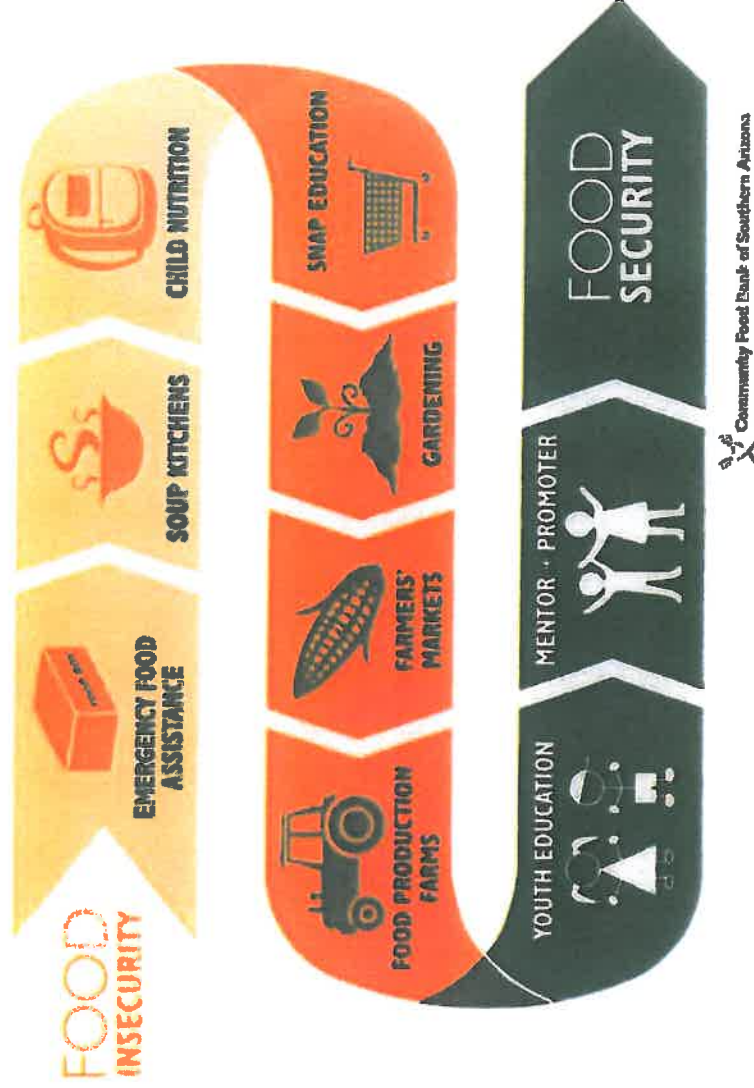




# Ending Hunger

## Food Production and Access

**Proposal:**  
**Identify & remove**  
**barriers and**  
**requirements to food**  
**production,**  
**transportation, and**  
**access**



# Ending Hunger One-Stop Shop w/ Department of Ag to Increase Healthy Food Access

**Problem: ongoing efforts and resources available to support agriculture are unknown to those working to grow healthy local food which could be used to end hunger**

## Next Steps

Dedicate an AZDA staff and website to share information, connect entities like rural small-scale growers, incorporate relevant information, help identify funding, and facilitate outreach, especially highlighting increasing access to healthy food and opportunities to make farms more successful in rural Arizona

- Promote “Arizona Grown” and an “Arizona First” program that support small and large scale producers, & favor the purchase of Arizona-grown products in procurement
- Promote food donation state tax incentives & Good Samaritan laws
- Facilitate food donations to food banks
- Assist statewide food system coalitions coordination



# Ending Hunger

## Continue to Host an Arizona Food Summit & Similar Gatherings

- The Arizona Department of Agriculture and Health Services hosted an Arizona Food Desert Summit in Summer, 2016
- An Arizona Food Summit was hosted in Spring, 2017 working towards:
  - Bolstering Arizona's emergency food network
  - Strengthening an equitable food system in Arizona
  - Developing long-term food security solutions through economic development



**Proposal: Organize regular events to gather all in the production and distribution of food to gather and share information and concerns, and report back to the Food Council and educate the community.**



# Ending Hunger Empower Sustained Arizona Agriculture Food Production

**Problem: Arizona food producers do not have adequate resources to sustain Arizona agriculture.**

30% of Arizona farm operators are over 65 years old, with the average age of an Arizona farmer being 61.

60% of Arizona farms have just between 1 -9 acres.

46% of Arizona farm operators report having no days of work off the farm

## Next Steps

Examine long-term land and water use

Promote scholarships, training, and education for new & existing food producers

Arizona Farms by Operator Demographic

	Total farm operators	Farms with female principal operators	Farms with male principal operators	Percent female principal operators	Percent Hispanic principal operators	Percent American Indian principal operators	Average years in farming business
US	2,109,303	286,264	1,821,039	13.7	3.2	1.8	26.0
Arizona	20,003	7,835	12,170	39.2	3.0	55.9	26.5
Apache	5,591	2,808	2,785	50.2	0.5	95.5	29.6
Cochise	1,053	251	812	23.8	5.9	0.8	20.4
Cocconino	2,239	1,127	1,112	50.3	0.5	89.2	29.9
Gila	195	46	149	23.6	5.1	19.0	27.6
Graham	412	49	363	11.9	4.1	14.3	25.3
Greenlee	159	17	142	10.7	8.2	-	23.9
La Paz	125	12	113	9.6	26.4	92.0	20.6
Maricopa	2,475	747	1,722	30.1	6.8	2.8	22.9
Mohave	335	99	236	29.6	3.6	12.8	22.1
Navajo	3,846	1,791	2,055	46.6	0.7	90.0	29.1
Pima	855	307	548	35.9	7.5	6.0	22.2
Pinal	936	206	730	22.2	8.6	6.7	21.5
Santa Cruz	236	58	178	24.6	14.4	0.4	18.7
Yavapai	940	282	678	27.9	2.2	1.7	22.3
Yuma	562	55	507	9.8	16.0	0.7	24.2
Average age of principal operator:	U.S. 58.3	Arizona 61.1					



ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE -  
FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ADVISORY COUNCIL



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# **Food & Agricultural Advisory Council Supported Efforts**

**APPROVED SEPTEMBER 6, 2017**

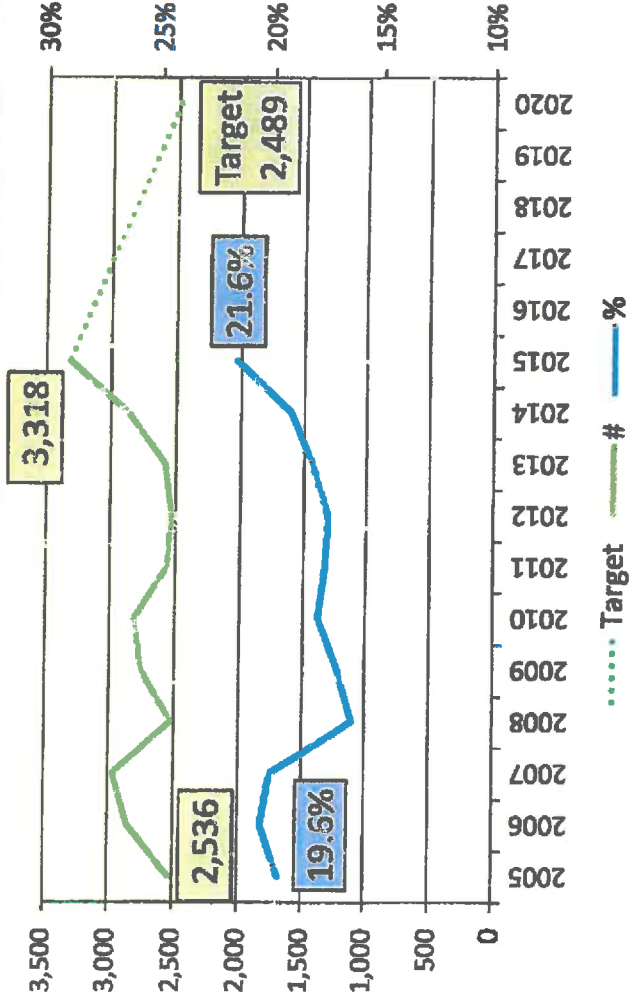




# Ending Hunger SNAP & TANF "Reach In" Enrollment

Goal	2-year	5-year
↓ the # of 1-year technical violators	20% (2,655)	25% (2,489)
(Base: 3,318)		

Project Agencies: Corrections (Lead), DOHS, ADIC, ACIC, AHCCCS, DHS, DES, ROC, Housing, Veterans Services



**Proposal:**

**Support current efforts for DES to seek waiver that allows DES staff to "reach in" and secure pre-enrollment for SNAP/TANF benefits for qualifying inmates prior to release and train correctional officers on enrollment procedures**



# Ending Hunger Delay the Box

## Unemployed Prime Age Working Men



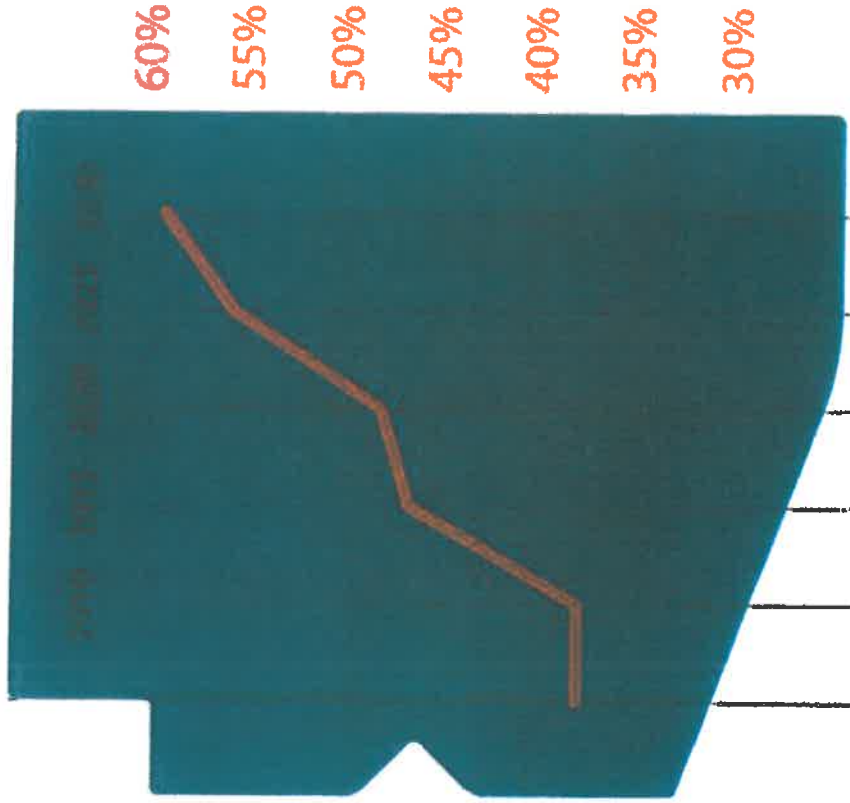
■ Criminal Record

- Everyone deserves the opportunity to earn a living to avoid poverty & food insecurity
- 34% of the unemployed prime working age men have a criminal record
- A conviction reduces the likelihood of a job callback or offer by 50%
- As an employer, adopt a “delay the box” policy, and model the behavior we want the private sector to follow
- Positive outcomes for both the workforce and recidivism projects

**Proposal:**  
**Support current efforts for the State of Arizona to adopt a “Delay the Box” policy as an employer**



# Ending Hunger SNAP Employment & Training



- Education is a top priority in Arizona that boosts prosperity for individuals, builds our economy, and reduced risks of poverty and food insecurity
- Achieve60AZ is a statewide goal to ensure 60% of Arizonans 25+ have a certificate or college degree by 2030
- SNAP E&T is intended to prevent long-term reliance on SNAP while providing opportunity for SNAP participants to find adequate employment
- Currently, SMFBA, UMOM, WHEAT, CFBSA, Father's Matters, & Goodwill are E&T partners
- Stakeholders meeting w/ DES to brainstorm ideas with positive outcomes for workforce, recidivism, and foster care projects

**Proposal: Support current efforts to strengthen and expand E&T**

