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FOOD SUMMIT

D E N V E R , C O L O R A D O

Session title: Federal Policy and Programs Demystified

Note Taker: Madeleine Clausen

Main points of each panelist:

1. Speaker 1: Sarah Hackney
 - a. Coalition director for NSAC
 - i. NSAC is a DC based grass-roots coalition to build a more equitable and sustainable food system
 - b. The 2023 Farm Bill: What do I need to know?
 - i. The farm bill is a large piece of federal legislation revisited every 5 years that sets the rules for our food system: what we grow, what we eat, etc.
 - ii. History
 1. Dates back to 1930s to address farming issues and hunger; core needs; erosion and soil loss (dust bowl)
 2. Early farm bills primarily accrued to white, land-owners
 - a. has had enormous impacts on who farms today
 - iii. Structure and Contents of Bill
 1. Over 5 years, \$428 billion dollars
 2. Largest portion is given to Nutrition (i.e. SNAP), followed by Crop Insurance, Commodities, Conservation, and Other (i.e. Horticulture, Local Food, Civil Rights)
 3. Contents is ~ 1000 pages
 - a. Can use the Farm Bill to protect and reinforce programs or to make shifts in programs that may not be doing well
 - iv. Timeline and Process of Making the Bill
 1. It is the 2023 Farm Bill
 - a. Each Ag Committee in the House and Senate write their own version of the bill
 - b. Each chamber, the House of Rep. and the Full Senate, debate and amend the bill
 - c. Leaders from House and Senate form a conference committee to combine bills
 - d. Full chambers vote on combined final bill
 - e. Fall 2023 (?) the final bill is sent to the White House for the President to sign
 2. Speaker 2: Erik Glenn
 - a. Executive director of CO Cattlemen's Agricultural Land Trust
 - b. Established in 1995 by the membership of the Colorado Cattlemen's Association

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- c. Farm Bill: How do we incentive land owners and producers to keep land in food production?
 - i. Land producers use the Farm Bill to continue their operations, pay back debt, getting new farmers into this occupation if they do not have heirs (use funding to make it more equitable)
 - ii. How had CO used Farm Bill funds in the past?
 - 1. Case Study on Hutchinson Ranch: Farm Bill conservation programs have allowed them to expand and sustain their work
 - a. Farm Bill \$ helped them keep their farm and now they are reaching city kids to bring them to the farm (investing in future generations)
 - 2. CO is the largest consumer of Farm Bill Funds
 - a. Federal level investments stimulated our economy and added ~ 1,000 CO jobs
 - 3. Need to ensure Farm Bill funds are implemented in the intended way
- 3. Speaker 3: Nick Glazier
 - a. Executive director of Colorado corn administrative committee
 - i. Formed in 1987; Penny-per-bushel assessment on corn grown in CO
 - ii. Invest in research
 - b. Commodity Programs & Definition
 - i. ARC Payment Formula
 - 1. Look at price of corn, multiply it by county revenue guarantee equals the actual county revenue
 - ii. PLC Payment Formula
 - iii. Crop Insurance
 - 1. Farmers pay a premium based on coverage rate they desire
 - 2. Premiums are subsidized
 - 3. Based on individual farm production
 - 4. Variety of insurance options
 - 5. New/innovative tools constantly being developed
 - iv. FMD and MAP help access foreign markets
- 4. Speaker 4: Wendy Peters Moschetti
 - a. Works for Nourish: policies to build a more equitable food system
 - i. Federal Advocacy for Nutrition
 - b. About Nourish:
 - i. Healthy Food in Institutions and Healthy Food Incentives
 - ii. Goal is to move practice to permanency → that is becomes the norm
 - c. Why federal policy?
 - i. Need to advocate for permanency through policy
 - ii. Allows for food systems-level solution

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- d. How Do We do it?
 - i. Through coalitions and representation
 - 1. Supporting them throughout the state through listening and learning (Good Food for All Coalition, Statewide Expansion Program, etc.)
 - ii. Learning from Local Partners (SNAP, Food Bill Action Team)
 - iii. Meetings with CO site visits, DC visits
- e. What we advocate for
 - i. SNAP incentives, local and regional food systems, farm to school/institution with values-based procurement, robust nutrition for early care, k-12, and families, robust nutrition for elders
 - 1. = farm bill
- f. Local Impacts of Federal Advocacy: Double Up Food Bucks
 - i. At Larimer County Farmers Markets:
 - 1. Made market more accessible, equitable, and inclusive
 - 2. Majority of SNAP shoppers had never been to a farmer's market before and did not know about double up food bucks
- g. Incentive programs lead to greater consumption of produce
 - i. But what are the potential economic contributions of healthy foods through incentive programs?
 - 1. Extreme positive impacts
- h. Through double up food bucks, local partners are able to give greater amounts of produce to consumers and eliminate food waste
- i. Wendy@nourishcolorado.org

Key points of panel discussion: The Farm Bill

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Question and Answer Summary:

- 1. What does it mean from your specific vantage point that the nutrition programs are apart of the Farm Bill?
 - a. Wendy thinks it's great: the incentive Nourish supports comes from the Farm Bill; their goal is to integrate agriculture with nutrition so the more connected they are the better
 - b. Nick says they must be put together; helping grow and access foods are connected; people want to know where their food comes from
- 2. Programs are often inaccessible to undocumented individuals; what is being done to expand access to these individuals?

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- a. Wendy: WIC is more accessible than SNAP; Produce prescription programs are small but growing and are more accessible; some county's have started their own 'SNAP Gap' programs to bridge that gap
- b. Erik: There are too many access barriers - thinks access to these programs needs to be simpler
3. What if anything is being done in Ag policy to promote sustainable agricultural practices?
 - a. Nick says their focusing on soil
 - b. Sarah says the Inflation Reduction Act included \$20 billion on conservation efforts to increase resources for press changes
4. Historically the Farm Bill has historically left out people of color; what is different now?
 - a. Sarah says some principles of new farm bill include:
 - i. Looking closer at credit to farmers to address harm done (land loss) of credit discrimination in the past
 - ii. Language conservation discrimination: large priority of new farm bill is to ensure help is in native language of individuals
 - iii. Ensuring people who have not received resources before are at the front of the line to get it this time
- 5.