



New York State Council on Food Policy

Governor Andrew M. Cuomo

Commissioner Darrel J. Aubertine

Created in 2007 by gubernatorial Executive Order No. 13, the New York State Council on Food Policy (NYS CFP) was reauthorized by Governor Cuomo in 2011.

The mission of the NYS CFP is to develop food policies that will increase adequate access to affordable, nutritious, local and safe food for all New Yorkers, especially for children, seniors and other at-risk populations; and to preserve and expand agricultural food production in the state. The NYS CFP holds two public meetings a year and delivers a report to the Governor each December.

Members There are twenty-one (21) members. Seventeen members are appointed by the Governor. Four members are appointed on the recommendation of the legislative leaders, one each by the Temporary President of the Senate, the Speaker of the Assembly, the Minority Leader of the Senate, and the Minority Leader of the Assembly. The State Agriculture Commissioner serves as the Chairperson. He is joined by the Commissioners of Health, Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance, Education, Aging, and Economic Development. The other members appointed by the Governor include the Dean of the New York State College of Agriculture and Life Sciences; 1 farm organization representative; 1 school food administrator; 1 consumer representative; 2 food assistance organization representatives; 1 nutritionist; 1 anti-hunger advocate; and 3 representatives from the food industry at large, which could include producers, distributors, processors or retailers with at least one involved in organic production.

Key Issue Areas identified by the NYS CFP are to:

1. Maximize participation in, and support for, food and nutrition assistance programs;
2. Strengthen the connection between local food products and consumers;
3. Support safe, efficient and profitable agricultural food production and retail food infrastructure; and
4. Foster a culture of healthy and local eating for all New York State residents.

Activities The NYS CFP has realized tremendous levels of inter-agency, public and private collaboration. Public access to government procedures has increased. Attention is paid to relevant federal and state legislation. Results are real and significant: Access to fresh, local, nutritious foods by underserved citizens has improved; and awareness of the health, social, economic, and environmental benefits of preserving and enhancing agriculture in our communities has increased.

NYS CFP inspired inter-agency, public, private, and community collaboration is evidenced by initiatives including:

- NYS became first in nation to allow WIC Vegetable and Fruit checks to be accepted at Farmers' Markets. This increased access points to nutritious, local produce by at least 5 percent for WIC participants and increased direct market income to participating farmers.
- EBT Pilot Project was initiated as a direct response to testimony heard on NYS CFP Listening Tour (2008). The project supplied EBT technology and training to non-traditional vendors, such as mobile markets and green-cart operators so that they can process food stamp benefits for the purchase of fresh, local produce.
- Increased focus on Farm to School and local procurement efforts in state-funded facilities. This results in more meals being prepared using fresh, nutritious, local ingredients; increased awareness and appreciation of our local food system; and support of local agricultural economies.

Comments on Federal legislation and regulations include:

- July 2009 Priorities sent to Governor and NYS delegates on "Child Nutrition and WIC Reauthorization Act".
- June 2010 Comments sent to USDA, FNS on "Geographic Preference Option for Procurement of Unprocessed Agricultural Products in Child Nutrition Programs".
- April 2011 Comments sent to USDA, FNS on the "Proposed Rules for Nutrition Standards in the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs".

Contact For more information please visit our website www.nysefp.org or contact Ann McMahon, Coordinator for the NYS CFP at: ann.mcmahon@agmkt.state.ny.us / 518.485.7728.

**NEW YORK STATE COUNCIL ON FOOD POLICY
JUNE 2011**

Chairperson

Darrel J. Aubertine, Commissioner, NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets

Members

Kenneth Adams, Commissioner, NYS Department of Economic Development; President and CEO, Empire State Development Corporation
Dr. Kathryn Boor, Dean, NYS College of Agriculture and Life Sciences at Cornell University
Linda Bopp, Executive Director, Hunger Solutions NY
Bruce Both, President, United Food and Commercial Workers Union; Local 1500
Mary Warr Cowans, RD, CDN, Assoc Director Division of Nutrition, NYS Department of Health (*retired*)
Raymond Denniston, BOCES Broome-Tioga; Co-Chair NYS Farm to School Coordinating Committee
Diane Eggert, Executive Director, Farmers Market Federation of New York
John Evers, Executive Director, Food Bank Association of NYS
Dr. John King Jr., Commissioner, NYS Education Department
Cathryn Mizbani, WIC Program Coordinator, Cornell University Cooperative Extension, Schenectady Co.
Liz Neumark, CEO, Great Performances; Sylvia Center
Gregory Olsen, Acting Director, NYS Office for the Aging
Kristen Proud, Acting Commissioner, NYS Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance
Dr. Nirav Shah, Commissioner, NYS Department of Health
Irwin Simon, Founder, Chairperson, President and CEO, Hain Celestial Group, Inc
Julie Suarez, Director of Public Policy, New York Farm Bureau
Eleanor Wilson, MS, RD, CDN, Senior Dietitian, Price Chopper Supermarkets, Inc
Catharine Young, New York State Senator, 57th District

Representatives

Dr. Barbara Dennison, Director of Policy and Research Translation Unit, NYS Department of Health
Ellen Deutsch, Chief Growth Officer and Senior Vice President, Hain Celestial Group, Inc
Patrick Hooker, Senior Manager of Agribusiness Development, Empire State Development
Dr. Michael Hoffmann, Associate Dean, NYS College of Agriculture and Life Sciences at Cornell University;
Director of the Agricultural Experiment Station at Cornell University
Jack Kennedy, Special Assistant, NYS Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance
Robert McNary, Exec Dir of Community and Sustainable Development, Empire State Development
Jorge Montalvo, Director, Strategic Policy Initiatives, Division of Consumer Protection, Dept of State
Frances O'Donnell, Coordinator Child Nutrition Program Administration, NYS Education Department
Patricia Race, Department of Health, Division of Nutrition
Florence Reed, Director, Nutrition Unit, NYS Office for the Aging

Coordinator

Ann McMahon, Special Assistant, NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets
Nimmy David, Assistant to the Council on Food Policy



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