



New York State
Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics

 an affiliate of the
Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics

NYS Assembly Hearing- The Impact of COVID -19 on Food insecurity in New York State

The New York State Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics (NYSAND) is comprised of registered dietitian nutritionists and nutrition and dietetic technicians, registered. NYSAND, with over 5,000 members, is the largest organization of nutrition professionals in New York State and an affiliate of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics. NYSAND mirrors the Academy in supporting innovative nutrition assistance programs to improve access to healthful, affordable and safe food.

NYSAND members are committed to promoting New York State's rich agricultural industry and strengthening residents' access and intake of locally produced fruits, vegetables, dairy, and other agricultural products. NYSAND members work in schools, food banks, community organizations, and many other settings that put them directly at the frontline to ensure the goals of Governor Cuomo's Nourish New York Initiative are fulfilled. The Nourish-NY program has been extremely helpful to farmers and consumers. Nourish-NY streamlined the program and paid farmers for the product provided. Nourish-NY payments have not only provided food to New York residents in need, it has helped keep farms afloat in a challenging financial environment. New York Farm Bureau's Harvest for All Initiative has donated more than 150 million of pounds of food over the past 15 years through Feeding New York State and its regional food banks.

As New York Farm Bureau and others continue to address food insecurity, easy access to sales and purchasing for both farmers and customers is paramount. USDA has significantly expanded their SNAP Online Purchasing Pilot Program which allows individuals to use SNAP EBT cards for online food purchases. Currently in New York, only Amazon, ShopRite, and Walmart are approved vendors.

NYSAND supports the Farm Bureau of New York in asking Assembly members to advocate at the federal level to expand the vendor list to allow for individual farmers to sell directly, through the online platform, to SNAP recipients.

The New York State Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics is committed to strengthening the health and well-being of New York residents through nutrition care and education and will continue to support the Farm Bureau in current and innovative food and nutrition programs serving the full diversity of New York State residents.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "MaryLou K. Plante".

MaryLou K. Plante, MS, RD, CDN, FAND

2020-21 President, New York State Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics

New York State Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics

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