

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF SANTA FE COUNTY**

RESOLUTION NO. 2011-188

**A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING 2012 FARM BILL PRIORITIES AS A MEANS TO
SECURING A REGIONAL FOOD SYSTEM THAT IS JUST AND ACCESSIBLE FOR
ALL MEMBERS OF SANTA FE COUNTY COMMUNITY.**

WHEREAS, the Federal Farm Bill ("Act") is the primary agricultural and food policy tool of the federal government and deals with agriculture and all related affairs under the purview of the United States Department of Agriculture ("USDA");

WHEREAS, the provisions of the Farm Bill affect the local and regional capacity to support a regional food system that is just, secured, sustainable and accessible for all members in Santa Fe County and the greater region of Northern New Mexico;

WHEREAS, the U.S. Congress will be considering legislative action on the 2012 Farm Bill;

WHEREAS, Santa Fe County and regional agriculture and food systems stakeholders such as the Santa Fe City and County Advisory Council on Food Policy and the New Mexico Food and Agriculture Policy Council are interested in the recommended provisions of the 2012 Farm Bill;

WHEREAS, the recommended provisions of this Act would secure support for the infrastructure necessary for local and regional food systems to thrive;

WHEREAS, the recommended provisions of this Act would increase access of federal nutrition program participants to farmers markets, Community Supported Agriculture ("CSAs"), and other local, healthy, sustainable food enterprises;

WHEREAS, the recommended provisions of this Act would create an interdepartmental

workforce within USDA responsible for urban-rural linkages across existing programs;

WHEREAS, the recommended provisions of this Act would request USDA to harmonize and streamline Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program ("SNAP") redemption and technology with other federal nutrition programs;

WHEREAS, the recommended provisions of this Act would promote incentives for fruit and vegetable purchases by federal nutrition program participants; and

WHEREAS, the recommended provisions of this Act would support farmer and rancher programs that provide direct marketing opportunities and enhance their ability to focus on building their businesses, mitigating risks, and improve land stewardship.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF SANTA FE COUNTY that Santa Fe County supports federal legislation for certain priority provisions of the 2012 Farm Bill including:

(1) **Secure the infrastructure necessary for local and regional food systems to thrive.** Infrastructure such as on-farm processing equipment and aggregation, distribution, and processing facilities would strengthen regional food hubs, and support farm sales to schools, value-added production, and other rural economic development programs. The USDA could be directed to promote multiple uses of public facilities through existing programs. Support would also include training and technical assistance for farmers, food service directors, and other key players in local and regional food systems.

(2) **Increase access of federal nutrition program participants to farmers markets, CSAs, and other local, healthy, sustainable food enterprises.** Measures could include providing EBT devices to farmers markets and CSAs, piloting the use of smart phone technology for SNAP at farmers markets, and allocating a portion of Farmer's Markets Promotion Program

funding to technical assistance, setting aside a portion of SNAP-Ed funding for promoting SNAP participants' shopping at farmers markets and CSAs, and encouraging the use of community organizing strategies, could further enhance access.

(3) **Create an interdepartmental workforce within USDA responsible for urban-rural linkages across existing programs.** Such an initiative could foster collaboration among Farm Service Agency and Extension staff to better address urban and rural food access, as well as institutionalize the collaboration developed through the *Know Your Farmer, Know Your Food* initiative. It would also provide a structure for enhanced collaboration with other agencies such as EPA and HUD—for example through formal USDA membership in the President's Sustainable Communities interagency workforce.

(4) **Request USDA to harmonize and streamline SNAP redemption and technology with other federal nutrition programs.** Minimizing administrative barriers to redemption of SNAP/EBT, WIC and Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program benefits would maximize farmer participation in these programs with increased sales benefitting both producers and consumers.

(5) **Promote incentives for fruit and vegetable purchases by federal nutrition program participants.** Targets could include increasing SNAP benefits and allocating a portion of the funds for a Healthy Food Incentive Pilot Program at farmers markets, and doubling the Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program funding.

(6) **Support farmer and rancher programs that provide direct marketing opportunities and enhance the ability to focus on building their businesses, mitigating risks, and improve land stewardship.** Targets could include increasing the Farmers Market Promotion Program, the Beginning Farmer and Rancher Program, the Assistance and Outreach

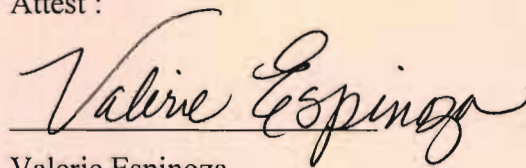
to Socially Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers, Conservation Stewardship Program, the Specialty Crop Block Grant Program, and incentive programs.

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED this 19th DECEMBER day of 2011

**THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF SANTA FE COUNTY**

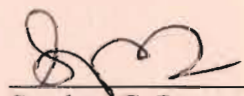

Virginia Vigil, Chair

Attest :


Valerie Espinoza,
County Clerk



Approved As To Form:


Stephen C. Ross,
County Attorney



COUNTY OF SANTA FE)
STATE OF NEW MEXICO) ss

BCC RESOLUTIONS
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I Hereby Certify That This Instrument Was Filed for
Record On The 14TH Day Of December, 2011 at 04:11:04 PM
And Was Duly Recorded as Instrument # **1654299**
Of The Records Of Santa Fe County

Deputy  Witness My Hand And Seal Of Office
Valerie Espinoza
County Clerk, Santa Fe, NM

SFC CLERK RECORDED 12/14/2011