Local Food Programs
Conservation Education
Policy Advocacy

ILLINOIS STEWARDSHIP ALLIANCE
Agenda

• Food, farms, and power: the big picture
• 2017 policy wins!
• 2018 state policy
• Farm Bill
• Action!
• Happy Hour (afterwards)
Concentration of Power, Profit

- 63% of beef packing handled by 4 firms
- 48% of food retailing controlled by 5 firms
- 66% of pork packing controlled by 4 firms
- 90% of global grain trade controlled by 3 firms
- 60% of corn seed, 85% of maize seed, and 44% of soy controlled by DuPont and Monsanto
- 10 companies own half of the world’s seed supply

Food resources: land, labor, water, seeds controlled by few

Domination of local markets

Processors and distributors erode farmer profits

Less individual profit = Less Farmers

Concentration = market volatility

Farm Operators 3,054,000
Farm Proprietors 2,188,957
Farm product raw wholesale 7,563
Food Manufacturers 27,915
Grocery and product wholesale 35,650
Food and beverage stores 148,804
Consumers 300,000,000
Concentration in Agriculture
Top 4 Companies’ Share

- Beef: 84%
- Hog: 66%
- Poultry: 59%
- Turkey: 55%
- Soybeans: 70%
- Corn: 80%
- All Seeds: 60%
“Powerful global food companies, from slaughter to food service to retail, are positioned between the world’s farmers and ranchers and the consumers.

They continue to pay less and charge more, leaving bankrupted farms, worn-out soils, and dead rural communities behind.

Individuals and independent small businesses are no match for the monopoly forces consolidating food and agriculture.”

Mike Callicrate of Callicrate Cattle Co. and Ranch Foods Direct
Letter to the Editor, Jan. 31, 2018 Colorado Springs Independent
“Power is the ability to achieve a purpose. Whether or not it is good or bad depends upon the purpose.”
Make tangible improvements in people’s lives

Change Policy

Build our Organizations

Power

Shift the Narrative

Unmask the dominant narrative
Raise expectations
Lay the groundwork for the next win

Grow the base
Develop leaders
Establish credibility
Forge allies
Generate resources
Passed Illinois Food Freedom Act

I know what you’re thinking...
There’s no way we have local, organic sweet corn at the farmers market in January.

BUT WE DO!

A new law went into effect on Jan 1 that allows Illinois
Passed Local Food Business Opportunities Act
Passed Local Food Resolution

“RESOLVED, by the House of Representatives of the 100th General Assembly of the state of Illinois, that

We urge Congress to adopt a Farm Bill that supports and promotes the development of local and regional food systems.”

State Rep. Tim Butler (R)
3 Big Wins

- Change Policy
- Build our Organizations
- Shift the Narrative

Lobby Day
Action alerts
Membership

Food freedom
Local food creates real jobs
Scale-appropriate rules
State Policy 2018

• Allow Industrial Hemp Farming
• Match SNAP (Food Stamp) Purchases at Farmers Markets
• Fully Fund the Soil & Water Conservation Districts

• LOCAL FOOD LOBBY DAY – April 26th
“It’s like a Swiss Army knife.”

- President Obama 2/7/14
Farm Bill

Title I  Commodities
Title II  Conservation
Title III  Trade
Title IV  Nutrition
Title V  Credit
Title VI  Rural Development
Title VII  Research, Extension, Related Matters
Title VIII  Forestry
Title IX  Energy
Title X  Horticulture
Title XI  Crop Insurance
Title XII  Miscellaneous
$956,000,000,000,000

Crop Insurance 9.4%
Conservation 6%
Commodity Subsidy Programs >5%
Innovative Programs >1%
Nutrition ~80%

2014 Farm Bill Budget Breakdown
Programs **without** baseline funding (under $50M)*

- National Organic Certification Cost Share
- Organic Agriculture Research and Extension Initiative (OREI)
- Organic Production and Market Data Initiatives
- Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program (BFRDP)
- Outreach and Assistance to Socially Disadvantaged and Veteran Farmers and Ranchers (Section 2501)
- Farmers Market and Local Food Promotion Program (FMLFPP)
- Food Insecurity Nutrition Incentives Program (FINI)
- Value-Added Producer Grant Program (VAPG)
- Rural Microentrepreneur Assistance Program (RMAP)
- CRP Transition Incentives Program

*without renewal in this farm bill, these programs will end on Sept. 30, 2018*
Programs without baseline funding (under $50M)*

- Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program (BFRDP)
- Farmers Market and Local Food Promotion Program (FMLFPP)
- Food Insecurity Nutrition Incentives Program (FINI)
ISA Farm Bill 2018 Priorities

• Local FARMS Act
• Beginning Farmers & Ranchers
• Conservation
• Crop Insurance Reform

• Farm Bill passed by Sept. 2018
Local FARMS Act
The Local Food and Regional Market Supply Act

• The farm bill should strengthen communities with farm to fork investments and put choice back into the hands of the people by:
  – Helping farmers reach new markets through outreach, cost-share, and technical assistance programs.
  – Increasing access to fresh, healthy, local food among low-income groups and communities in need.
  – Developing new and strengthening existing infrastructure that connects producers to consumers.
Highlights of Local FARMS Act

• Consolidated program $80 million per year that merges the Farmers Market and Local Food Promotion Program and Value-Added Producer Grants Program (*above baseline!*)
• Organic Cost Share Certification Program for farmers and handlers at $11.5 million/year
• Food Safety Certification Cost-share Program funded at $10 million
Rep. Cheri Bustos

Rep. Rodney Davis

Rep. Mike Bost
We Are Building Power Federally Too

Grassroots Guide to federal farm & food programs

sustainableagriculture.net
What can you do?

Come to Local Food Lobby Day April 26th

Handwrite a letter to Rep. Davis today

Host a Dishing on the Farm Bill party
Sign up to host “Dishing on the Farm Bill” House Party at ILstewards.org

Thank you for choosing to become a “Dishing on the Farm Bill” host! In this kit you will find following documents:

- Postcard Invite Graphic
- Facebook Event Graphic
- Invitation and Thank You Sample Text Document
- House Party Planning Guide PDF
- Menu Inspiration PDF
- Agenda PDF
- ISA logo Graphic

Don’t forget to sign up for a date to host your party on the Illinois Stewardship Alliance website. A member of our staff or board will be thrilled to present at your event on any of the dates listed on the calendar here: [link to calendar].

Once you’ve signed up, an Illinois Stewardship Alliance representative will be in contact and will make arrangements to bring everything you and your group needs to learn about the 2018 Farm Bill and write letters to your legislators—so all you have to do is worry about the fun part—mixing and mingling with your friends! If you have any questions leading up to the event, don’t hesitate to reach out to your Alliance representative or to Molly at molly@ILstewards.org

Alternatively, if no Alliance representative is available when you wish to host your party, email Molly at molly@ILstewards.org to discuss options. Or you can purchase the Farm Bill Presentation Package, which includes everything you need to present on the topic yourself. The Package costs $35 and includes:

- 1 Sign-in Sheet
- 15 “What’s in the Local Farms Act” Fact Sheets
- 15 “Tips for Writing a Letter to Your Legislator” Guides
- 15 Illinois Stewardship Alliance Brochures
- 15 Illinois Stewardship Alliance Membership Sign Up cards
- 1 Illinois Stewardship Alliance Video-Presentation Flashdrive
- Writing paper with Alliance letterhead
- Alliance branded supplies
Letters

Address your envelope (return address too)

Congressman Rodney Davis
108 W. Market St.
Taylorville, IL 62568

Letter

— Do not include date
— Include your address
— A personal story is important: why does it matter?
— Be courteous: we want to gain his support
Contact

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