Tiny but mighty local food programs left out of 2018 Farm Bill Draft
Il representatives can bring them back

Springfield, IL — The following is a statement by Executive Director Liz Moran Stelk on behalf of Illinois Stewardship Alliance on the 2018 Farm Bill:

The draft 2018 Farm Bill released yesterday effectively ends the tiny but mighty Farm Bill programs that worked steadily over the last decade to revitalize local economies and make wholesome food available across Illinois.

The Farmers Market and Local Food Promotion Program and Value-Added Producer Grants supported more than 30 projects in Illinois communities and dozens of family farmers. They created businesses and good jobs across our state, strengthened farmers markets, established food hubs, and have driven consumer demand for fresh, local food.

These hardworking Farm Bill programs are among the only ones that support local food production. They arm communities with the tools they need to create food security. While they are tiny investments, over the course of the last decade they have proven to make a huge impact.

Alliance members have seen the impact of these programs firsthand. The Farmers Market Promotion Program helped The Land Connection build a mid-week farmers market that serves low income residents in Champaign. The Value Added Producer Grant helped Kilgus Farmstead in Fairbury start the only on-farm dairy bottling operation in the state, helping their business support three families and deliver milk to retail locations across Illinois.

We are counting on Illinois U.S. Representatives Mike Bost, Rodney Davis and Cheri Bustos stand up for these tiny but mighty programs as the Farm Bill debate unfolds in the House Agriculture Committee.

Farmers Market Local Food Promotion Program Grant Recipients in Illinois:

- Angelic Organics Learning Center
- Belli’s Local Foods Market & Juice Bar
- Black Oaks Center for Sustainable Renewable Living
- Board of Trustees Southern Illinois University
- Bureau County Health Department
- Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Chicago
- Chicago Green City Market Program
- Chicago Horticultural Society
Value-Added Producer Grant recipients:
Greta's Goats, Pecatonica
Kilgus Farmstead, Fairbury
Kinnikinnick Farm, Caledonia
Living Waters Farm, Strawn
Marcoot Jersey Creamery, Greenville
Rustic Road, Elburn

Illinois Stewardship Alliance (ISA) is a statewide non-profit with a mission to cultivate a food and farm system that is economically viable, socially just, and environmentally sustainable. Our membership is farmers, food and farm organizations, and eaters across the state.
www.ilstewards.org