2021 Food System Action Plan
Listening Sessions

These listening sessions were convened and facilitated by Valley Vision and made possible with generous support from the Sacramento Region Community Foundation.
The Food System Action Plan (FSAP) is a **regional food system investment strategy** that will identify best practices, priorities, prevailing challenges, opportunities, and funding recommendations related to the region’s food system for the communities of El Dorado, Placer, Sacramento, and Yolo Counties. The goal is to increase the vitality and resiliency of the region's food system and to identify financing strategies and mechanisms to support a more equitable, health-promoting, and accessible food system for all residents of the Greater Sacramento Region. The FSAP is an update of the 2015 plan.
Other Local & Regional Planning Efforts

We are collaborating and sharing data and findings with a variety of local, regional, state, and federal partners

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<th>Effort</th>
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<tr>
<td>Sacramento Food Policy Council’s Sacramento County Food Assessment and Environmental Justice Element</td>
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<td>Building Healthy Communities &amp; the Healthy Food For All Collaborative (HFAC)</td>
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<tr>
<td>SACOG’s Rural Urban Connection Strategy (RUCS) / Coordinated Rural Opportunities Program (CROP)</td>
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<td>Yolo County Sustainable Ag Land Conservation Program (SALC) Grant</td>
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<td>Delta Protection Commission, Prosperity Strategy, Others</td>
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Today’s Food System

Food and Ag Cluster (farming/ranching/forestry, food processing, packaging and distribution, and support services) is **major regional economic driver**

- One of only 5 Mediterranean climates in the world
- 1.5+ million acres of farmlands, 6,660 farms (2017)
- $2 Billion farm gate value (crops at the farm/ranch)
- Region’s Economic Output
  - More than $12 Billion in overall economic impact (2018)
  - More than 55,000 jobs (does not include Retail, Hospitality, Tourism sector, Nutrition Services, Education)
Today’s Food System Cont.

Avg age of farmer: 57.5 years

32% of producers are new/beginning farmers (avg 46 years old)

Avg age of highly skilled manufacturing worker: 56 years

43-48% of farms have less than 9 acres in El Dorado and Placer counties, compared to 18% in Yolo

83% of farms in Sacramento County lack Internet access
Even Pre-Covid, 1 in 6 children food insecure, now 1-5 (Sacramento County) – food insecurity numbers higher than state and national averages; emphasis growing on “nutrition security”

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<th>Huge increase in millions of pounds of food distributed, meals and people served by emergency food system due to Pandemic</th>
<th>CalFresh enrollment of eligible participants ranged from 35% in Yolo County to 81% in Sacramento County (2018)</th>
<th>Almost 40% of food is wasted somewhere along the chain; food recovery increasing</th>
<th>Institutional procurement’s impact: every $1 of produce local school districts purchased from Yolo County farmers, $1.82 of economic activity generated (2017 UCD)</th>
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<td><strong>Additional $154 M available annually</strong></td>
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Growing environmental challenges – drought, fire, heat, flood, air quality risks
Careers in Food and Agriculture

This session will cover workforce pipelines and skills pathways for new farmers and food producers; middle-skills job training and upskilling; ag-tech skills; issues of concern for farmworkers, and other related topics.
This session will cover sustainable farmland preservation, access to land, urban agriculture, broadband and capital access, market channels/supply chains, and other related topics.
This session will cover climate-smart ag, impacts of drought, flood, and extreme heat; sustainable groundwater management and water resources; healthy soils; food waste and recovery (SB 1383, etc.); agroecology, and other related topics.
This session will cover food and nutrition security; emergency food system infrastructure, networks and capacity (i.e. food banks); food deserts and healthy food access and affordability; food recovery systems, and other related topics.
This session will cover health status, nutrition, and healthy eating; food and agriculture education and literacy, including cooking, gardening, agriculture, and science; culturally appropriate and traditional foods, and other topics.
This session will cover local market development, institutional procurement (Farm to School, Farm to Hospital, local purchasing policies, etc.); food hubs, food incubators, school central kitchens, etc.; agritourism; new food products/food entrepreneurs, agrifoodtech innovation and other related topics.
Workforce & Education Challenges & Opportunities

**Challenges**

- Skill gap & longer term pipeline needed
- Career & Food System Awareness
- Farm Labor Shortage & Immigration Policy

**Opportunities**

- Nontraditional Apprenticeships/Internships
- Urban ag, new growing models need workforce
- Agrifood tech emerging high demand skills area
- Acceleration of technology impacts, need for digital skills
Ensuring Thriving Agriculture For All: Challenges & Opportunities

**Challenges**
- Farmland Conversion Pressure
- Access to Land
- Broadband / Capital Access

**Opportunities**
- Demand for local foods
- Institutional Procurement
- New State & Federal Funding Resources
- America’s Farm to Fork Capital
An Environmentally Sustainable Food System - Challenges & Opportunities

**Challenges**

- Climate Change (Heat, Fire, Flood, Drought, Air Quality)
- SB 1383
- Regulatory Compliance / (un)funded mandates

**Opportunities**

- Demand for local/healthy food
- New State & Federal Funding Resources
- SB 1383
- Climate-Smart Agriculture/ New Technologies
Food Security & Healthy Food Access - Challenges & Opportunities

**Challenges**

- High levels of poverty / at risk households
- Historical geographic disparities and resource allocation
- Lack of local government / other investment & infrastructure

**Opportunities**

- New Partnerships
- Incoming Federal and State funding
- New models for creative solutions
- Food Waste Prevention & Recovery

New models for creative solutions
Incoming Federal and State funding
New Partnerships
Food Waste Prevention & Recovery
Health and Nutrition - Challenges & Opportunities

Challenges

- Poor Health Status / Chronic Disease
- Low understanding of healthy foods/nutrition/origin of food
- Affordability / lack of access

Opportunities

- Institutional focus on health eating and nutrition (schools, hospitals, etc.)
- Innovative models on food literacy/ag education/urban ag, etc.
- Strong partnerships to reach underserved populations
- CalFresh enrollment efforts
Food Economy - Challenges & Opportunities

Challenges

- Lack of funding for food system infrastructure projects
- Inconsistent institutional procurement policies & practices
- Support for financing & food economy enterprises

Opportunities

- Strong & innovative partnerships
- Potential Projects
- New Funding
- Agritourism
Audience Discussion / Input (via Mentimeter)
Closing Remarks & Next Steps

Stay in touch with us!

Trish.Kelly@ValleyVision.org
Grace.Kaufman@ValleyVision.org