

December 17, 2018

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Farm Bill

[Here are the winners and losers from the new farm bill](#) — Grist, December 13, 2018

It was touch-and-go, but the final farm bill includes funds for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). A previous version of the bill would have slashed the program, "which would have punished and stigmatized low-income Americans and made hunger and poverty in this country far, far worse," said James Weill, president of the Food Research & Action Center. In protecting the program, he said, legislators preserved "the critical investment that ensures that nearly 40 million people who struggle against hunger in this country can afford to put food in their refrigerators and on their tables."

[U.S. House passes \\$867 billion farm bill, which President Donald Trump is expected to sign](#) — Star Tribune, December 12, 2018

The U.S. Senate and House passed the Farm Bill, and now the \$867 billion measure heads to the president, who is expected to sign it despite the elimination of a House GOP proposal to expand dramatically the number of people subject to harsh SNAP eligibility cutoffs. House Democrats walked away from negotiations on the farm bill earlier this year over the SNAP controversy, and Senate Republicans signaled they did not want to make substantive changes to the farm bill's nutrition program. After Democrats won back the House in November, the House GOP lost their bargaining power.

[Farm Bill Receives Mixed Response from Rural Advocates](#) — Daily Yonder, December 12, 2018

The Farm Bill, which passed both the Senate and the House by wide margins, is a rare moment of bipartisan compromise in an often-gridlocked legislative environment. The final farm bill largely rejected demands by President Trump and current House Agriculture Committee Chair Mike Conaway (R-TX) that would have cut nutrition programs and imposed mandatory work requirements on many SNAP recipients. Most anti-hunger and nutrition advocates are pleased with the final result.

[Maine Anti-Hunger Groups Say Farm Bill Protects State's Poor](#) — Maine Public Radio, December 14, 2018

A coalition of Maine anti-hunger groups says the Farm Bill passed by Congress this week is a win for the state's hungry. Nearly 15 percent of households in Maine struggle with food insecurity. Preble Street, Maine Equal Justice, and Good Shepherd Food Bank say the new Farm Bill is important for low-income households in the state because it protects SNAP and invests in The Emergency Food Assistance Program.



Remember this December - Hunger is Solvable

Remember this December that hunger is solvable with the federal nutrition programs. [Download and share these graphics](#) to help spread the word!

School Meal Nutrition Standards

[USDA's Final Rule on Nutrition Standards is a Step Backwards for Children's Health and Learning](#) - FRAC, December 10, 2018

The Food Research & Action Center (FRAC) is disappointed that the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced a final rule that rolls back certain important aspects of the current school meal nutrition standards and significantly unravels progress made under the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010. The Act ensures the nearly 30 million children who eat school lunch and the 14.4 million who eat school breakfast have the nutrition they need for their health and learning. The rule ignores these benefits as well as the voices of more than 80,000 individuals and organizations, including FRAC, who urged the USDA to maintain the current, evidence-based nutrition standards. The majority of school districts are fully and successfully meeting the current nutrition requirements; this is not a time for rolling back the standards.

[More Salt, Fewer Whole Grains: USDA Eases School Lunch Nutrition Rules](#) — NPR, December 7, 2018

School lunches are healthier than they were five years ago. But Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue says schools need more flexibility in what they serve in school meals. The rule will allow administrators to serve more white breads, biscuits, tortillas, and white pastas by requiring that only half of the grains served in school meals each week be whole-grain rich. Currently, schools are only allowed to serve whole grain-rich breads and pastas unless they get a waiver. In addition, the administration is putting the brakes on the targets developed under the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010 to cut back on sodium.

[Despite rollback, many Central Texas schools to keep healthy lunches](#) — KXAN, December 10, 2018

When USDA announced a rollback on some of the current school meal nutrition standards in early December, it got some parents worried. "Putting junk into our bodies is not going to make for good kids or happy adults," said parent Hayley Gooding of Austin, Texas. Anneliese Tanner, the executive director for food and nutrition services for the Austin Independent School District (AISD), is putting parents' concerns to rest. "We think the [current] nutrition regulations have been a positive change for our students and we will continue to offer whole grains and vegetables every day," said Tanner. She says AISD will not be implementing any of the new changes. Along with AISD, Bastrop, Round Rock, Leander, and Hays CISD school districts also will not be changing their food service options.

Proposed Public Charge Rule

[American Business Leaders Respond to the Proposed "Public Charge Rule"](#) — Boundless, December 7, 2018

In opposition to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) proposed "public charge" rule, a spectrum of business leaders from across the country crafted and made public a comment delineating the negative impact the rule would have on the vitality of America's business sector. Citing outside research, the comment details how the rule would foreclose the opportunity for companies to hire and retain new global talent, force businesses to navigate increased burdensome paperwork and other costs, and, generally, be contradictory to American values. The comment also notes that the rule fails to elevate the contributions that immigrants and children of immigrants make to the nation's economy and business world.

Afterschool Suppers

[Supper program fills hunger gap](#) — The Oklahoman, December 13, 2018

A trio of schools within the Oklahoma City school district — Capitol Hill High School, Centennial Mid-High, and Herronville Elementary School — currently offers afterschool meals programs to students. Kevin Ponce, the school district's director of nutrition services, says the afterschool meals programs are an effort to "combat child hunger and to help students fuel their minds and bodies with an additional well-balanced meal before they head home at the end of the day." The Oklahoma City school district, which offers free breakfast and lunch to all students, serves about 300 afterschool meals daily, and plans to offer more meals at more schools. Meals are available to all children age 18 and under and are funded through USDA's Child and Adult Care Food Program.

School Meals

[Partners for Breakfast in the Classroom](#) — Philanthropy News Digest, December 11, 2018

As a part of a features series that highlights the work of nonprofit organizations, Philanthropy News Digest boosted the efforts of the Partners for Breakfast in the Classroom coalition, which FRAC helped launch in 2010. The highlight describes the coalition's mission and offers information about its currently operating programs and efforts.

[Howard schools will offer free lunches during winter break](#) — Howard County Times, December 10, 2018

Maryland's Howard County schools will offer free lunches during two days of winter break this year, December 27 and 28. This will be the first time that Howard County schools will implement a winter break meals program. "Hunger doesn't take a vacation, so it was imperative that we replicate our summer meals program to serve our children during

their winter break," said Schools Superintendent Michael Martirano. Of the school system's 58,000 students, 22.5 percent are enrolled in the state's free and reduced meals (FARM) program. The school system has trained all county school principals on the FARM program's value, and they are sharing that information with school staff.

College Hunger

[Taking College One Meal at a Time](#) — New York Times, December 8, 2018

Hunger is a pervasive problem across college campuses, affecting millions of students, according to a survey released this year by Temple University and the Wisconsin HOPE Lab. Of the 43,000 students at 66 colleges surveyed, 36 percent had trouble getting enough to eat on a daily basis. Samuel Issiah Williams, 22, is a senior at Cornell majoring in information science. He arrived on campus this semester facing rising tuition costs, unexpected health insurance fees, and thousands of dollars in loans. Rather than add to his mounting debt, he decided to forgo a meal plan — thousands of dollars for the year — and instead gets by with canned goods and free food around campus. He hopes to stay steadily nourished until May, when he graduates and plans to get a job in web design.

SNAP

[Buried in Wisconsin Republicans' lame-duck legislation: Drug-testing requirements for food stamp applicants](#) — New Food Economy, December 6, 2018

Due to Wisconsin's Republican-controlled state legislature passing a set of measures limiting the incoming Democratic governor's power, the newly elected governor, Tony Evers, will be inheriting two of Gov. Scott Walker's controversial policies: forcing SNAP applicants to submit to drug testing and new, stricter time limits to participating in the program. These new requirements will cause the number of people in Wisconsin who will be losing their SNAP benefits to grow in the coming year, denying more people access to food assistance. USDA does not allow states to mandate drug testing to determine SNAP eligibility, but the Walker administration announced last December that it would require drug screenings for participants in the state's Employment and Training Program, essentially instituting drug screenings for all unemployed SNAP recipients.

From FRAC Chat

[Remember This December: Hunger is Solvable With SNAP](#) — FRAC Chat, December 12, 2018

During the holidays and all year long, millions of individuals and families who struggle against hunger are able to access healthy food with support from the federal nutrition programs. To celebrate the nation's nutrition safety net, FRAC is releasing a six-part "Remember This December" series that will highlight the impact of six important federal nutrition programs. This is the third installment of the series, which focuses on the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). Read the previous installment on afterschool meals.

Coming Soon

December 20 - [Afterschool Meals Matter Conference Call: Engaging Afterschool Networks and Existing Funding Streams](#)

January 10 - [Planning Ahead for Community Eligibility - Basics, Tools, and Implementation Tips](#)

Jan 17 - [Growing Stronger, Sustainable Year-Round Afterschool and Summer Meal Programs](#)

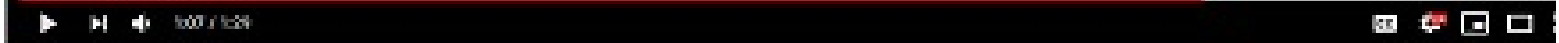
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Hunger is Solvable



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About Us

FRAC is the leading national nonprofit organization working to eradicate poverty-related hunger and undernutrition in the United States. Visit our [website](#) to learn more.

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