

Food Systems Sub-Committee March Updates (in lieu of 3/13/19 call)

SIT UPDATES

- New subcommittee members: Becky Belnap with Navajo County and Heather Robinson with UA-Pima. Welcome!
- AZ Dept. of Ag. put out a survey to ask how they can help producers in our state with Farm to School. Please share with farmers and markets in your area and ask them to complete by Friday, March 22, 2019. Survey link:
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/XQYKMY3>

Upcoming events

- Arizona's Farm to Summer Week Challenge informational webinar: March 27th 2:30 - 3:30 PM ([attachment 2](#))
- AZ School Garden Sustainability Summits - 3 regional workshops on school garden sustainability. Topics include using gardens as outdoor classrooms, growing food in your climate, creating active garden committees, and generating funding for future success.
 - Southern AZ Summit on March 29, 2019 ([attachment 3](#))
 - Central AZ Summit on April 3-4, 2019 ([attachment 4](#))
 - Northern AZ Summit on April 5, 2019 ([attachment 5](#))
- Allies for Childhood Hunger Solutions professional development event on April 10th 9 AM - 3:30 PM. ([attachment 6](#))
- Keep Kids Coming Back training from ADE on April 16th 9 AM - 1 PM ([attachment 7](#))

SET UPDATES

February Food Systems SET Updates



- STORE Refresher Training was held March 7th: required for all staff proctoring the STORE tool
 - STORE Guide, Tool, training slides and recording on SET website
 - New STORE submission deadline: **9/20/19**
- What's next for Food Systems Evaluation?
 - Go forth and assess your food retailers
 - Review your FY18 Evaluation Summaries and recommendations
 - Share your accomplishments and challenges in the SARN
 - Stay up to date on SEEDS reporting
 - Look for a survey in a few months about your thoughts on future Food Systems evaluations
 - Read the Garden Champions Special Project report here:
<https://nutritioneval.arizona.edu/results>
 - Attend AZ Health Zone conference sessions on food systems (date TBD)

POLICY/I HEARD UPDATES (5 min)

- Federal
 - “Top Democrats on the House and Senate Ag committees on Monday were quick to bash Trump's **new budget request** as a betrayal of the 2018 farm bill he signed in December, H.R. 2 (115). The ambitious fiscal blueprint proposed shrinking USDA's budget by 15 percent compared with spending estimates for fiscal 2019, including steep cuts to major farm bill programs the Agriculture panels spent months negotiating. Like virtually all presidential budgets, most of Trump's plan is going nowhere. But key Democrats and some industry groups are still taking it like a jab in the eye — setting up a renewed clash between Congress and the White House in the months ahead of the Sept. 30 funding deadline...”
(From POLITICO's [Morning Agriculture Report](#)).
- AZ Legislature, FS-related bills
 - **HB2186**: AAFB bill about school lunches, working with Rep. Udall, making sure all kids get a meal about whether or not they have money to pay that day. Proposes some solutions for schools to recoup costs.
 - **SB1011**: Crisis Response org bill, AAFB supporting and tracking, getting \$1.5 million appropriation to make Arizona 211 a 24-hour hotline
 - **SB1476**: Ajo Center for Sustainable Agriculture brought to Senator Otondo, provides internships for beginning farmers to enter the agricultural workforce. Food producing agricultural businesses, nonprofits and community colleges would be eligible for this program and can receive up to 50% reimbursement for the internship. A total of \$275,000 would be appropriated to support this program.

Next AZ Health Zone Food Systems Subcommittee Meeting: April 10, 2019 10-11 AM

- As always, please fill out our survey monkey if you want to bring up any questions to the call (<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/FScommittee>) or email any of the Co-Leads (Jesse.Davenport@azdhs.gov, rebeccaserratos@email.arizona.edu, or nataliasantos@email.arizona.edu).