

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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A FOOD POLICY FOR THE STATE OF MAINE

*Report and
Recommendations
for the Working
Group and Advisory
Committee on the
Department of Agriculture, Food
and Rural Resources in June of 2005*

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Presented to the Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Second Regular Session of the 122nd Maine Legislature, January 2006

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About This Report

In June of 2005, the Maine legislature passed a law entitled “An Act to Make Revisions to the Laws Governing Agriculture”. Several sections of Title 7 needed up-dating due to the passage of time and changes in agencies’ roles and funding. As the Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry Committee reviewed the proposed changes in language, they concluded that it would be appropriate for the Maine Department of Agriculture to also re-write the Maine Food Policy that was enacted in 1984. The Commissioner was directed to convene a Working Group to assist in this process.

The subject of Food Policy has been on the minds of many people since events of the past several years have made us more conscious of the need for an uninterrupted, safe and wholesome supply of food. In July 2005, First Lady Karen Baldacci hosted a Food Policy Conference at the Blaine House in collaboration with the Eat Local Foods Coalition. This began the discussion about what a Maine Food Policy should contain, and led to the next step of convening the Working Group. Many members of the Coalition were asked to serve on the Working Group and have contributed greatly to the process of developing a new Food Policy for Maine.

After several meetings of both the Advisory Committee and the Working Group, the picture became clear. A Food Policy should include a mechanism that gives it the means to be implemented. The Working Group looked at examples from several other states and concluded that a Food Policy Council should be established with the mission of developing a strategic plan and guiding its implementation.

The Working Group met throughout the fall of 2005 to craft the language of the Resolve and also developed a set of goals and actions that might be used by the newly created Food Policy Council. The suggested actions are a combination of recommendations that have been made by previous task forces and new initiatives that reflect the goals of the Food Policy.

Working Group Membership

Name and affiliation:

Joyce	Benson	SPO
Roger	Doiron	Eat Local Foods Coalition
David	Hartley	Dept. of Education
Dianne	Holcomb	Partners in Ending Hunger
Amie	Joseph	Maine Grocers Association
Paul	Kuehnert	DHHS
Craig	Lapine	Cultivating Community
Russ	Libby	MOFGA
Frank	Miles	AGCOM
John	Piotti	Coastal Enterprises, Inc. University of Maine Cooperative Extension
John	Rebar	Maine Food Network
Eric	Rector	Maine Food Network
Rep. Nancy	Smith	Maine Legislature
Stewart	Smith	University of Maine
Lisa	Turner	Laughing Stock Farm

Advisory Committee Membership

Name and affiliation:

Walter	Beesley	ME Dept of Education
Jody	Breton	ME Dept of Corrections
Richard	Davies	Governor's Office
David	Etnier	ME Dept of Marine Resources
Deanne	Herman	ME Dept of Agriculture
Mary Ellen	Johnston	ME Dept of Agriculture
Betty	Lamoreau	Division of Purchases
Christine	Lyman	ME Dept of HHS
Janet	McLaughlin	BGS

These two committees met together to develop the following document. The Advisory Committee has a purpose that extends beyond the completion of this work, which is to expand the purchase of local foodstuffs and is also included as Goal #5 in the Food Policy.

Summary of Recommendations

1. Food Policy

The Working Group developed a new Food Policy that is succinct yet comprehensive and establishes clear principles to guide the State.

2. Food Policy Council

The working group recommends that a Food Policy Council be established to oversee implementation of the state's food policy. The council should include legislators and consumers, represent all aspects of the food system, include the involvement of state agencies, the university and other entities whose policies and actions have significant roles to play in the viability and sustainability of Maine's food system.

The group also recommends that the council should be funded at least at a level to provide one full time staff equivalent so that the work of the council can be effectively carried out. The council shall report directly to the agency that is designated by the Legislature

3. Stable and Consistent State Policies.

Stable and consistent state policies, appropriate rules and regulations, and adequate funding of programs to support and promote development are central to the success of any policy. The coordinated efforts of state agencies are an essential component of implementing the state's food policy.

The following pages contain draft proposed legislation reflecting these three recommendations. In addition, draft legislation containing more complete details for the creation of a food policy council for Maine is offered in Appendix B.

Draft, Proposed Legislation:

**IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD
2006
RESOLVE, Establishing a Food Policy
For Maine.**

It is in the best interest of the State to ensure the availability of an adequate supply of safe, wholesome and nutritious food to its citizens.

To this end, the State of Maine supports a food supply system that:

1. Ensures Maine residents have a safe and stable food supply; free of interruption by natural or human events;
2. Enhances the access, availability, affordability and quality of food for all its citizens;
3. Maintains a safety net to ensure food security from hunger for its most vulnerable citizens;
4. Contributes positively to the nutritional, economic and social well-being of its citizenry and its rural communities;
5. Is economically and environmentally sustainable;
6. Recognizes that Maine is a unique place with a diverse land, soil, climate and fishery conducive to the production of a wide array of food products;
7. Promotes a fair return to all participants, provides entrepreneurial freedom and allows access to opportunity to participate in the food supply system;
8. Increases food self-reliance through increasing production of food in Maine and increasing the consumption of Maine produced fish and farm products;
9. Is recognized as a vital sector of the Maine economy, enhances rural economic development and contributes positively to Maine's rural quality of life;
10. Is supported with assurance of an adequate supply of farmland and access to working water fronts to sustain Maine's food and fisheries industries and provide for their future growth;
11. Is accompanied by public and consumer information on the health values of a proper diet, healthy lifestyle and access to Maine produced agricultural and fish products; and
12. Is supported by stable and consistent state policies and programs.

Therefore,

Sec. 1.

Council established. Resolved: That the Maine Food Policy Council, referred to in this section as the "council," is established.

1. **Purpose.** The council shall be charged with responsibility for developing a strategic planning process that is data driven and outcome oriented, oversight of the implementation of Maine's food policy and with ensuring effective interagency coordination of the State's policies, programs and activities regarding Maine's food system.

2. Duties. The council shall develop and maintain a strategic plan, conduct research and analysis, review state policies, programs and procedures, and regulatory systems, recommend changes to improve the role of government in ensuring the efficiency and productivity of Maine's food system and consumer access. In so doing, shall work collaboratively with agencies to resolve conflicting or burdensome policies and requirements.

Further, the council shall advise the Governor, Legislature, state agencies and the public in the formulation of policies and programs to further the purpose of Maine's Food Policy, coordinate to develop collaborative relationships at all levels to address issues and find solutions, seek a broad level of public input, hold hearings and informational meetings, and seek to be as inclusive as possible of the interests of consumers and the food system.

The council shall report biennially to the legislature on activities and progress, including recommendations for action.

3. Membership. The council may consist of up to 35 members and shall include representatives from all aspects of the food system, representation from state agencies whose policies, programs and actions have significant impact on the food system, legislators, consumers, and the university.

The council is further encouraged to engage a broad base of individuals, advocacy and stakeholder groups, governmental and non-governmental entities as appropriate through subcommittees, working groups and through other ad hoc task forces.

Sec. 2.

Stable and Consistent State Policies, Resolved:

The State of Maine supports a broad range of programs that affect the production, distribution and consumption of food. Therefore, Maine's food policy provides the framework to ensure that state programs are conducted so as to optimize their effectiveness and ensure their consistency with state policy objectives.

1. State Agencies: State agencies are directed to consider the effects of their goals, policies, programs, rules and procedures on Maine's food system.

Agencies shall coordinate with the Maine Food Policy Council, share data, provide information on how their goals, policies, programs, rules and procedures promote the goals of this policy, and collaborate on ways to improve alignment, fill gaps in services and build capacity.

2. Food Policy Council: The Food Policy Council shall:

A. Work collaboratively with state agencies and departments to improve stability and alignment of state policies that have an impact on Maine's food system.

B. Review state policies, programs and procedures, and regulatory systems, recommend changes to improve the role of government in ensuring the efficiency and productivity of Maine's food system and consumer access to healthful food. In so doing, work collaboratively with agencies to resolve conflicting or burdensome policies and requirements.

C. The council shall identify and propose changes in policies to the Governor and the Legislature.

3. Participation of other entities. The Council in the conduct of its duties, may seek information from all related state agencies, statewide or regional associations representing all aspects of Maine's food system and associations representing beneficiaries and consumers that may be affected by the repeal, modification, redesign, enhanced coordination or delayed implementation of the mandates.

SUMMARY

This resolve sets forth the primary objectives of a Food Policy for Maine to guide policy and program development, establishes a food policy council to oversee and implement the policy as an ongoing process, and directs state agencies to coordinate with the council and to ensure state policies and procedures are consistent with the objective of Maine's Food Policy. The resolve requests funding for one full time equivalent staff person to carry out the work of the Council.

A Guide for Implementing a Food Policy for the State of Maine

Justification:

It is in the best interest of the State to ensure the availability of an adequate supply of wholesome, safe, and nutritious food to its citizens. It is also important to encourage the increased production of food in Maine in order to decrease our reliance on out-of-state food sources, while enhancing rural economic development and contributing positively to Maine's rural quality of life.

Maine's remarkably diverse, entrepreneurial, and market-sensitive farming and fishing industries play a critical role in the economic vitality of the state and region. Rural and urban communities alike have a stake in the future of these industries. In addition to their economic contributions, farming and fishing play a big role in our quality of life and sense of place. The maintenance of our productive landscapes, open spaces, working waterfronts, and recreational areas is one of Maine's defining characteristics. In order to retain these public benefits, we need public policies to support farming and fishing in ways that assure their profitability and sustainability. Future generations need to be motivated by the prospects of profitability and stability in order to make the commitment to, and investment in, farming and fishing.

Maine consumers spend over \$3 billion on food products and services each year. Maine farmers and fishermen receive less than 4% of that \$3 billion. At a time when more and more people are concerned about the environment and our impact on it, Maine's food producers benefit from the state's positive image as an ecological destination where the term "quality of life" actually means something. Maine is well placed to build upon this reputation and to capture part of the growing national and international market for natural and healthful food products. Within the state, producers have just started to tap the enormous economic potential offered by local markets. As local foods become more available to citizens through farmers markets, CSAs, and wholesale and retail outlets that feature local foods, income to producers should increase as well.

The impact of globalization is showing up in our supermarkets with food items from states and foreign countries that are shipped thousands of miles and grown or produced under conditions that would not be allowed here in the U.S. Maine needs a safe, reliable, and wholesome supply of food for the citizens, so that no Maine person has to be concerned about how their food was grown or whether we will have enough in the event of a disaster or shortage.

Rising fuel costs are making it more difficult for suppliers from far away to continue to offer food items at the low prices that consumers have grown accustomed to. These costs will be shifted to consumers. Transporting food within Maine is both more economical and better for our environment. Local foods offer the best alternative, keeping Maine dollars in Maine communities and providing a ready supply of wholesome foods.

The increased national and state emphasis on chronic disease prevention calls for less fat and sugar and foods with lower cholesterol, and has given farmers incentive to market their fruits and vegetables as never before. Maine marine fisheries are a tremendous local resource in view of general nutrition promotion messages recognizing fish and seafood as excellent sources of protein and minerals.

Section I: *Key Indicators*

Maine's food producers and consumers have never faced as many challenges as they do today. As a result of trends and events that have occurred over the past twenty years, the factors that affect our food system and the choices we make are varied. Some of these factors are described below.

Lack of access to the land and the water:

- There has been unchecked sprawl that has eaten up over 20,000 acres of prime farmland over the past 5 years;
- There is decreased access to the waterfront for fishermen due to soaring land values and development in coastal areas;
- There is a growing reliance on the use of leased lands for farming operations, many of which can be lost from one year to the next;

Demographic shifts:

- We have an aging farm population with nearly six times as many Maine farmers over 55 as there are younger than 35;

Consolidation:

- Local communities rely more heavily on imported foods that have traveled great distances and at a great environmental cost;
- The deterioration of Maine's food processing infrastructure both for agricultural and marine products over the past twenty years has reduced our ability to add value to local foods. There is a growing disconnect in the minds of many Mainers between the food they eat, and where, how, and by whom it was produced.
- The ingredients for the average Maine meal travels over 1900 miles from field to fork, which is 25% more than in 1980 and using up to 17 times more fossil fuels than locally sourced ingredients.

Food Security:

- Maine is currently producing only 20% of the food needs of her citizens. The rest is imported.
- The USDA says that one in ten Maine residents is "food insecure," or does not have an adequate, consistent supply of food.

Economic data:

- In spite of the loss of farmland and water access, recent data indicate that gross farm sales alone contribute \$553 million to the state's economy. Fishing (including all species) adds another \$404 million annually in gross sales.
- Maine farming and fishing industries employ about 25,000 workers directly and up to 45,000 when secondary employment is included. Thousands more people are involved in transporting these commodities to market by truck, rail, air, and ships. These industries are still critical to the health of rural Maine communities.

Health Issues:

- National studies show that poor diet, along with physical inactivity, is a leading cause of premature death or disability. One study estimated that total costs for diet-related disease including lost productivity due to illness and premature death approached \$70.9 billion.
- Both the national Healthy People 2010, and *Healthy Maine 2010*, Maine's public health blueprint for health promotion, has made increasing consumption of fruits and vegetables a key priority.
- Recent studies related to the health of Maine citizens have shown that there has been an increase of 20% over the last decade in the adult obesity rate, with more than half of Maine adults overweight or obese and nearly 30 % of high school students overweight or at risk.

Food safety issues:

- Along with the importation of a large percentage of our food have come the introduction of insects and plant and animal diseases that pose a threat to our native species and the health of our citizens.
- Regulatory costs have escalated for both government and industry in an effort to monitor and control these factors.

It is imperative that we act decisively and responsibly to address these challenges and opportunities and adjust to global trends while there is still time.

Section II. Goals

The goals of a **Food Policy for the State of Maine** reflect the cross-sector nature of the issues and responsibilities of stakeholders and state agencies. They build on the goals and recommendations of the Local Agriculture Task Force of 2004, and the Blaine House Conference on Natural Resource Based Industries, as well as other recent studies.

1. State programs across all agencies and organizations have shared goals and strategies as they relate to the food security and health of Maine citizens.
2. Maine should be able to produce 80% of the calories consumed by her citizens by the year 2020.
3. Maine citizens are informed regarding the importance of the agriculture, fishing, and aquaculture industries to the economy of Maine and to the health and well being of Maine people and communities.
4. Maine's food production and distribution are priorities of government agencies and are supported by programs that are innovative and generously funded and that contribute to its long-term viability and sustainability.
5. Maine institutions purchase locally grown, raised or harvested foods whenever possible and at a price that ensures the producers receive a reasonable profit.
6. Farming, fishing, and food processing are promoted as critical economic development activities in all regions of the state.
7. Mainers should work to encourage the genetic diversity of its crops, livestock and fisheries and support market development that reinforces this diversity.
8. The percentage of locally-produced foods purchased in Maine should increase as follows:
 - The number of Maine households that purchase their fresh, local foods through CSA farms will increase to 5%
 - Every town with a population of 5,000 or more will have a Farmers Market.
 - Maine farmers, fishers and food processors will see their share of the Maine food market rise from 4% to 20 % by 2010.
 - By the year 2008, 20% of eligible senior citizens will be participating in the Senior FarmShare Program.
9. Maine will reverse the trend of farmland loss and working waterfront loss and will begin to increase both the supply of working farmland and access to working waterfront by 2010.

10. Maine's food system – production, processing, distribution and consumption – is both environmentally and economically sustainable, i.e., it meets the needs of the present generation of producers and consumers without compromising the ability of future generations to do the same.
11. Maine's food system includes a social safety net so that no Maine resident ever goes hungry.

Appendix A

Resources

1. 1984 State of Maine Food Policy
2. Get Real. Get Local! Recommendations for Policies and Programs Needed to Support and Sustain Local Agriculture in Maine, by the Local Agriculture Development Task Force, December 2004
3. Ending Hunger in Maine, Final Report of the Maine Millennium Commission, April 2002
4. Maine's Natural Resource-based Industries 2004 Indicators of Health
5. Economic Impact of the Maine Food System and Farm Vitality Policy Implications by Jesse E. Gandee, November 2002
6. Local Produce Buying in Maine Schools, A Survey of Maine School Food Service Directors and Managers by Katherine Sheaff and Deanne Herman, Maine Department of Agriculture, Summer 2003
7. Maine's Dairy Industry, Assessment of the Current Situation and Economic Impact of the Industry, State Planning Office, March 2003
8. Governor's Task Force on the Sustainability of the Dairy Industry in Maine, Final Report and Recommendations, November 2003
9. A Study of the Use of Maine Produced Foodstuffs in Public Institutions, A report to the Legislature, April 2004, by Kelly M. Cobourn, OPLA Intern
10. Aquaculture Vision and Principals- Public Law 2004, Chapter 660
11. Governor's Task Force on the Planning and Development of Marine Aquaculture in Maine, January 2004
12. Healthy Maine Partnerships, Strategic Plan for Cardiovascular Health in Maine, 2002-2010
13. Farming, Fishing, and Forestry: Resources for the Future, State Planning Office, 2001.

Appendix B: Draft Legislation, Detailed Food Policy Council

Section 1. Food Policy Council is established. Resolved: That the Maine Food Policy Council, referred to in this section as the "council," is established.

1. Purpose. The council shall be charged with responsibility for developing a strategic planning process that is data driven and outcome oriented, oversight of the implementation of Maine's food policy and with ensuring effective interagency coordination of the State's policies and activities regarding Maine's food policy.

2. Members. The commission may consist of up to 35 members appointed in September 2006 as follows:

One Senator and one Representative from the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over agriculture and fisheries, appointed by the President of the Senate; and one Senator and one Representative from the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over matters of health and nutrition, appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives; (4)

One representative of each of the Departments of Agriculture, Marine Resources, Health and Human Services, Environmental Protection, Education, Economic and Community Development, Administrative and Financial Services and the State Planning Office appointed by the Commissioners of the respective departments; (8)

At least twelve representatives of the public, including a minimum of 3 members representing consumers, hunger, nutrition or related organizations, 9 representatives of food industry including producers, distributors, processors and retailers, an equal number of whom are appointed by the Governor, the President of the Senate and by the Speaker of the House of Representatives; (12)

Three representatives chosen by AGCOM; (3)

Three representatives of the University of Maine System including the Cooperative Extension, the Department of Food Science and Human Nutrition and Dining Services. (3)

The council is further encouraged to engage a broad base of individuals, state programs, advocacy and stakeholder groups, governmental and non-governmental entities as appropriate through subcommittees, working groups and through other ad hoc task forces.

3. Terms of appointment. The terms of appointment are as follows.

A. Of the initial appointments, one third must be for terms of 3 years, one third must be for terms of 2 years and one third must be for terms of one year.

B. Subsequent appointments must be for terms of 3 years, except that, if a member is unable to complete the term, the appointing body shall appoint a person to serve out the remainder of the unexpired term.

C. A member may not serve for more than 6 years. A member may continue to serve until a replacement is designated.

4 Organizational meeting. The council shall hold an organizational meeting, by December 1, 2006 and shall elect from among the members a chair and a vice-chair for the council. (Options: Chair or Co-Chairs appointed by the Governor, or Co-chaired by Ag & DHHS)

5. Meetings & Attendance. The council may meet up to 4 times a year. The council may meet up to six more times a year if funds are available to compensate members. If a member of the council fails to notify the chairs about an absence from a meeting more than one time, the original appointing authority may appoint a replacement.

6. Quorum; actions. A quorum is a majority of the members of the council. An affirmative vote of the majority of the members present at a meeting is required for any action.

7. Duties. The council shall:

A. Advise the Governor, Legislature, state agencies and the public in the formulation of policies and programs to further the purpose of Maine's Food Policy;

B. Develop a strategic plan, with benchmarks and measurable goals for achieving the objectives of Maine's food policy. Assess and propose revisions to update the plan every five (5) years;

C. Conduct research and analysis of issues concerning Maine's food system and its consumers that are of state-level significance in order to develop sound and coordinated policies and programs;

D. Coordinate and develop collaborative relationships at all levels to address issues and find solutions;

E. Seek a broad level of public input, hold hearings and informational meetings and seek to be as inclusive as possible of the interests of consumers and the food system;

F. Review state policies, programs and procedures, and regulatory systems, identify those laws, policies, procedures and recommend changes to improve the role of government in improving the efficiency, safety and productivity of Maine's food system and consumer access. In so doing, work collaboratively with agencies to resolve conflicting or burdensome policies and requirements;

The council is further encouraged to engage a broad base of individuals, government programs, advocacy and stakeholder groups, governmental and non-governmental entities

as appropriate through subcommittees, working groups and through other ad hoc task forces.

8. Staff assistance. The council shall be staffed by one full time equivalent position. The legislature shall determine to whom the staff will report.

9. Funding. The council is authorized to seek, accept and expend funds to carry out the council's program activities. Any funds will be administered on behalf of the council by the agency appointed by legislation.

10. Reimbursement; mileage. The members of the council who are Legislators are entitled to receive the legislative per diem as defined in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 3, section 2 and reimbursement for travel and other necessary expenses for attendance at meetings of the council upon application to the Executive Director of the Legislative Council for those expenses.

Public members not otherwise compensated by their employers or other entities that they represent are entitled to receive reimbursement of necessary expenses incurred for their attendance at authorized meetings of the council.

11. Report. The Council shall submit a biennial report on the activities of the Council, progress achieved in the implementation of the food policy, and recommended actions to implement the policy to the First Regular Session of the Legislature beginning on December 15, 2007.

Appendix C: Actions

Actions suggested below are matched to the goals that they would support. Some actions support multiple goals. Many of these actions are found in other reports as well. These actions are not presented in priority order. See Appendix A for a list of the reports and studies that were reviewed by the Working Group to inform their deliberations.

Goal 1. State programs across all agencies and organizations have shared goals and strategies as they relate to the food security and health of Maine citizens.

- a) Increase support for natural resource R&D through the University of Maine, while making it possible for non-academic institutions to participate.
- b) Link food policy to the goals of the Climate Change Task Force, which includes eating more local food as one of its action items.
- c) State agencies will continue to work together on emergency response systems and preparedness trainings.

Goal 2. Maine should be able to produce 80% of the calories consumed by her citizens by the year 2020.

- a) Establish a baseline and ongoing measurement of per capita consumption, production capacity and food miles associated with Maine's food system.
- b) Create a "Food Balance of Trade" report every 2 years, showing where Maine's food comes from, where food produced here is sold, and which foods produced in Maine supply in-state markets.
- c) Work with New England Agricultural Statistical Services to include survey questions that capture information about the percentage of production that is exported out of state.

Goal 3. Maine citizens are informed regarding the importance of the agriculture, fishing, and aquaculture industries to the economy of Maine and to the health and well being of Maine people and communities.

- a) Conduct an annual forum to bring members of the agriculture and fisheries sectors together.
- b) Departments of Health, Agriculture and Education, shall collaborate to enhance all Nutrition Education Programs for Maine citizens of all ages, focusing on the linkages between local agriculture, healthy living and good nutrition.
- c) Schools in Maine should be encouraged and assisted in expanding their science curriculum to include the importance of sustainable local food systems..
- d.) State produced communication and technical assistance products such as how to manuals, trainings and websites should cross reference local food, food security, safety and nutrition promotion linkages.

Goal 4. Local food production and distribution are priorities of government agencies and are supported by programs that are innovative and generously funded and that contribute to its long-term viability and sustainability.

- a) Extend the Farms for the Future program that provides farmers with help preparing detailed business plans and cost-sharing for implementation.
- b) Make farm energy audits available.

- c) Establish program for community gardens; develop model leases; Review zoning and structural capacity issues for rooftop gardens and link garden space to other public projects (e.g., large school with public funding, set aside space for school/community gardens)
- d) Assess capacity and readiness of regional and local food systems to manage a short or long term crisis in food production, supply or access caused by natural or man-made disasters.
- e) Expand the direct marketing programs for food products to consumers and retailers by the Departments of Agriculture and of Economic and Community Development.
- f) Investigate incentives for farmers to make conversions to more sustainable systems, similar to those enacted in Woodbury County, Iowa.

Goal 5. Maine retailers, restaurants and institutions purchase locally grown, raised or harvested foods whenever possible and at a price that ensures profitability for all.

- a) Maine works with health insurance providers to demonstrate the connection between food and health by covering half the costs of a CSA share or coupons redeemable at farmers' markets within a policy similar to current incentives to participate in exercise programs.
- b) School lunch programs are encouraged to feature Maine-produced foods at least one day per week by 2010 and district purchases of local foods are included under the Essential Services and Programs model.
- c) Provide model institutional food buying contracts for universities, hospitals, etc., which want to go outside the single source supplier model.
- d) Change the institutional food purchasing law to require 10% Maine, in addition to dairy.
- e) Resolve the technical issues so that food stamps may be used to purchase more food directly from farmers.
- f) Pass a law similar to Oregon's that provides a tax incentive to farmers who permit gleaning in their fields.
- g) Work with the food producers, university food science personnel and institutional buyers to identify process and package systems that are most needed.
- h) Network with the large grocery store chains to increase the opportunities for local foods to be offered through these important retail outlets.

Goal 6. Farming, fishing, and food processing are promoted as critical economic development activities in all regions of the state.

- a) Conduct an assessment of areas where Maine has a strategic production advantage, both regionally and nationally, e.g. seeds; winter vegetable production; seed potatoes; on-farm dairy processing; dairy genetics (multiple breeds).
- b) Expand the Agricultural Marketing Loan Fund and Grant Program to include a staff position for technical assistance to producers.
- c) Increase support for natural resource R&D through the University of Maine, while making it possible for non-academic institutions to participate.
- d) Ensure access to appropriate livestock and poultry slaughter facilities, including waivers from federal standards.
- e) Provide support for expanded winter vegetable production.
- f) Ensure that Maine producers have access to business planning and management training in order to enhance their ability to compete and meet the demands of new markets.

- g) Conduct an annual forum to bring members of the agriculture, fisheries , economic development and municipal services sectors together.

Goal 7. Maine should work to encourage the genetic diversity of its crops, livestock and fisheries and support market development that reinforces this diversity.

- a) Research the use of buffer zones and notification as means of protecting crops from drift.
- b) Move liability for genetic contamination to the patent-holder.

Goal 8. The percentage of locally-produced foods purchased in Maine should increase as follows:

- The number of Maine households that purchase their fresh, local foods through CSA farms will increase.
 - Every community with a population of 5000 or more will have a Farmers Market.
 - Maine farmers, fishers, and food processors will see their share of the Maine food market rise from 4% to 20 %.
- a) Establish a target of 20% of Maine households having a direct connection with one or more farmers (CSA, Farm Share, etc.) by 2015.
 - b) Identify more farmers who might supply the growing demand at farmers' markets in Maine, particularly in southern Maine.
 - c) Support the various Local Food directories for the off-season: where to go to get local foods when the farmers' market isn't going, for each county/region in Maine.
 - d) Help get winter CSA's started/going.
 - e) Support the 10% local foods challenge –by offering incentives for people to join such as coupon books which Mainers can purchase for \$80 dollars in the Spring. In turn, they receive \$100 worth of coupons that may only be used at farmers' markets or farm stands.
 - f) Encourage communities over 5000 to designate space and resources for a community garden plot. (Intervale model.)
 - g) Encourage school garden programs as part of school wellness and/or science programs
 - h) Create a tax incentive for landlords who provide garden space to tenants. (roof top gardens, etc)
 - i) By the year 2008, at least 20% of eligible senior citizens will be participating in the Senior FarmShare Program.

Goal 9. Maine will reverse the trends of farmland and working waterfront losses and by 2010, will stabilize the supply of both and begin to increase access to each resource.

- a) Inventory public lands, particularly in York and Cumberland counties, for potential agricultural use.
- b) Ten percent of Maine's farmland and fisheries access points have conservation easements by 2015.
- c) A pool of money is established to purchase and lease back waterfront access points for working fisheries.
- d) A pool of money is established to allow communities to purchase fisheries quotas, which are then leased back to fishermen from the area.
- e) To further protect Mainers' Right to Farm, an " agricultural impact statement" will be required when land is being considered for development.
- f) Protect agricultural lands and working waterfronts from conversion to development in areas where a critical mass of such is needed to support infrastructure and a viable local economy.

Goal 10. Maine's food system – production, processing, distribution and consumption - is both

environmentally and economically sustainable, i.e. it meets needs of the present generation of producers and consumers without compromising the ability of future generations to do the same.

- a) Establish a target of Maine being the first State in the country with at least 50% of its farms using organic practices (2020).
- b) Farm energy audits are available.
- c) Model (standard) contracts for farmers wishing to produce energy and sell into the grid are available.

Goal 11. Maine's food system includes a social safety net so that no Maine resident ever goes hungry.

- a) Advocacy for stable and adequate funding for feeding programs will ensure Maine citizens access to healthy and affordable local foods.
- b) Encourage and support the "plant a row" program in rural communities.
- c) Establish low-income criteria for access to community gardens.
- d) Enhance technical assistance to and coordination among all food safety net system components.

**Appendix D Selected Programs Relevant to Food Policy in Maine of the
Maine Dept. of Health and Human Services**

Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention [Public Health]

Division of Chronic Disease

- **Healthy Maine Partnership**
- **Physical Activity and Nutrition Program**
- **Chronic Disease Prevention & Management**
- **Coordinated School Health Program**
- **Community Health Promotion Program**

Division of Family Health

- **Maternal and Child Health Nutrition Program**
- **Women, Infants, & Children Nutrition Program [WIC]**
- **Public Health Nursing**

Division of Environmental Health

- **Drinking Water Program**
- **Environmental and Occupational Health Program**

Division of Infectious Disease

- **Infectious Disease Epidemiology Program**

Division of Public Health Systems

- **Public Health Emergency Preparedness**

Office of Integrated Access and Support [Human Services]

- **Food Stamp Program**

Office of Elder Services [Human Services]

- **Community Services**

Office of Child and Family Services [Human Services]

Division of Early Childhood Services

- **Child Care**
- **Early Head Start, Head Start**

**SELECTED MCDC SPONSORED HEALTH INDICATORS OF POSSIBLE INTEREST FOR
MAINE FOOD POLICY**

Listed in chronological order of Agency approval and publication.

Maine Physical Activity and Nutrition Plan 2005-2010 [issued Nov. 2005]

- **Increase the number of schools offering nutrition education opportunities for families by 2010 [Objective 2.2.1]**

- Increase the number of media messages directed to Maine adults on the benefits of eating more fruits and vegetables, making lower-caloric food choices, and on how to maintain a healthy weight by 2010 [Objective 2.2.2]
- Increase the number of community facilities used by adults that have policies to improve nutritional offerings
- (more fruits and vegetables and how to maintain a healthy weight) at meetings & events by 2010 [Objective 2.2.4]
- Increase the number of Maine insurance payers who provide incentives for employers who address employee preventive health including nutrition by 2010. (Objective 2.2.12)
- Increase the number of community-supported agriculture venues by 2010. (Objective 4.1.2)
- Increase the number of towns with comprehensive plans that include local design standards to support physical activity through the built environment by 2010. (Objective 2.1.5). Farms protect open land and offer areas for recreation and trails. Land for gardens should be set aside, gardening is a recommended form of physical activity for children, youth, adults, and seniors.

Healthy Maine 2010: Longer and Healthier Lives [issued Jan. 2001]

Environmental Health:

- Minimize reliance on pesticides and reduce pesticide exposure [Objective 8-3, 8-24].