

Hi All,

Dana, Danielle, Karen Cutler, and I were in Denver, CO., this week attending the National WIC Association meeting. There were lots of excellent presentation on updated facts on Vitamins D & K, iodine; how facial coding can be used when working with clients to change their nutrition/health behaviors; and "How to health are you?" inspirational messages encouraging NWA members to be more than the change-agent for our participants, but to walk-the-talk about nutrition and healthy lifestyles. I want to share this information with you, so I will coordinate with those that attended the meeting to see if we can share notes and handouts.

Take care,  
Kathleen

1. Food Recall--Taylor Farms Retail, Inc. is initiating a voluntary recall of Organic Baby Spinach with the potential to be contaminated with *Salmonella*. The items subject to the recall were distributed in **AK, AR, AZ, CA, CO, ID, KS, LA, MO, MT, NM, NV, OK, OR, TX, UT, WA, WY.**

For more information, click the following link:

<http://www.fda.gov/Safety/Recalls/ucm305203.htm?source=govdelivery>

**From:** U.S. Food & Drug Administration (FDA) [<mailto:fda@service.govdelivery.com>]

**Sent:** Wednesday, May 23, 2012 1:42 AM

**Subject:** Salinas Firm Initiates A Voluntary Recall Because Of Possible Health Risk

You are subscribed to Recalls, Market Withdrawals and Safety Alerts for U.S. Food & Drug Administration (FDA).

This information has recently been updated and is now available.

### **[Salinas Firm Initiates A Voluntary Recall Because Of Possible Health Risk](#)**

*05/22/2012 07:58 PM EDT*

Taylor Farms Retail, Inc. is initiating a voluntary recall of Organic Baby Spinach with the potential to be contaminated with Salmonella following a random test conducted on a finished package of spinach by USDA.

NICE TO KNOW:

**From:** Food Research and Action Center [<mailto:mambrose@frac.org>]

**Sent:** Monday, May 21, 2012 11:52 AM

**To:** Wayne, Kathleen A (HSS)

**Subject:** FRAC's Weekly News Digest - Issue #20, May 21, 2012



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The Weekly Food Research and Action Center News Digest highlights what's new on hunger, nutrition and poverty issues at FRAC, at the U.S. Department of Agriculture, around the network of national, state and local anti-poverty and anti-hunger organizations, and in the media. The Digest will alert you to trends, reports, news items and resources and, when available, link you directly to them. Previous editions of the Digest are available on [FRAC's website](#).

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Make plans now to attend the **Food Research and Action Center's Annual Benefit Dinner**, Wednesday, June 6, 2012 at the Capital Hilton, Washington, D.C. The proceeds from the dinner will benefit FRAC's Campaign to End Childhood Hunger, which is achieving major gains in feeding children in communities throughout the United States. For more information, please call (202) 986-2200 x3950. To register for the event online, please visit [FRAC's website](#).

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### **1. Farm Bill Cuts Will Make it Harder to Eat Healthy Meals, Say Anti-Poverty Advocates**

([Rochester YNN](#), May 3, 2012)

The New York State Hunger Action Network, Bread for the World, and the Northeast Organic Farm Association were in Rochester, New York recently to speak out against the pending Farm Bill, saying it will cut funding for nutrition programs such as SNAP/Food Stamps. The organizations complimented Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY) for voting against the bill because of its SNAP/Food Stamp cuts.

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### **2. Op-ed Writers Dispel SNAP/Food Stamp Myths**

([Marketwatch](#)

, May 9, 2012)

In an op-ed published in the Michigan Chronicle, named “best black newspaper in the country” six times in the last 12 years by the National Newspaper Association, Dr. Carol Olander, former Director of SNAP Research and Analysis at USDA, and former White House spokesman Robert Weiner noted that “[f]or over four decades, the Food Stamp Program...has had bipartisan support as the nation’s most important anti-hunger program...However, the House-passed Republican budget drafted by Cong. Paul Ryan would cut it by 17% and turn the program into state block grants easily slashed further.” Olander and Weiner dispel the myth that inefficient SNAP administration wastes money. “In 2010, SNAP costs for federal administration were less than 1 percent of total federal SNAP spending. Even after adding the federal share of state administrative expenses, 95 percent of federal spending went directly to low-income participants in the form of benefits.” SNAP expenditures are expected to decrease as the economy improves, according to the Congressional Budget Office. A 2009 USDA report found SNAP/Food Stamps reduced the poverty rate in 2008 by nearly eight percent. The program also boosts the economy, creating \$1.79 in economic benefits for every \$1 spent. “Would those who would cut or end the program send the 45 million food recipients to the streets to fend in trash barrels, as happened before the New Deal?” ask Olander and Weiner at the conclusion of their op-ed.

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### **3. Minnesota's Poorest Residents Would Suffer Under Proposed Farm Bill** ([Public News Service](#), May 16, 2012)

The more than 500,000 Minnesota residents on SNAP/Food Stamps would see their benefits cut, some would lose their benefits, and "Main Street" would also suffer under the proposed budget cuts in the Farm Bill, according to Colleen Moriarty, executive director of Hunger Solutions Minnesota. "Because it's actual money, federal money that people can spend in the local community, and so it's great money – keeps business open on Main Street, and grocery stores," said Moriarty. "So, it would have a dramatic impact on our state, and on every state in the country." Moriarty said Rep. Collin Peterson (D-MN), ranking Democrat on the House Agriculture Committee, needs to hear from people in his district about the SNAP/Food Stamp Program.

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### **4. Connecticut Officials Speak Out Against SNAP/Food Stamp Cuts** ([Connecticut Mirror](#), May 17, 2012)

Rep. Rosa DeLauro (D-CT) said she is outraged over the cuts to SNAP/Food Stamps targeted by lawmakers, while farm subsidies and other agriculture programs are left unharmed. "I don't care if it's Democrats or Republicans, I'll do battle with both," she said. The program was designed to expand to more people during tough economic times and shrink when times get better, and it makes no sense to cut it now. DeLauro noted that one out of seven people in the 3rd Congressional District is food insecure, and cutting SNAP/Food Stamps would have a serious impact on the state. "People think of Connecticut as a rich state and what does it matter if food stamps are cut," said Lucy Nolan, executive director of End Hunger Connecticut. "But we have a fair amount of poverty, and food pantries can't take on any more people." The \$218 in benefits the average Connecticut household receives is not much money, said Nolan, and yet Congress is considering reducing that amount.

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## **5. Chef Mario Batali Among Participants in NYC Food Bank's SNAP/Food Stamp Challenge**

([NY Daily News](#), May 16, 2012; [Associated Press](#), May 14, 2012; [MSNBC](#), May 2012; [Media Matters](#), May 16, 2012)

"This really is an awareness campaign," said Margarett Purvis, president and CEO of the Food Bank for New York City, about the organization's SNAP/Food Stamp Challenge. "The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) is under threat in Congress and we have to protect it and protect our neighbors that depend on it. We need more people to understand that those who take food stamps are families, people like us, they are our neighbors." The Farm Bill negotiations could reduce SNAP/Food Stamp benefits and limit the number of people eligible for the program. The Food Bank is also encouraging people to visit the organization's website where they can email their elected officials and ask them to support the program against cuts. "Knowledge is power, and by truly understanding what our friends and neighbors are going through, we will be better equipped to find solutions," said Challenge participant, celebrity chef and Food Bank board member Mario Batali, who joined his family and 200 others on the Challenge. "We, hopefully, aren't pretending or being like a bunch of yuppies saying 'Oh yeah, this is how you can do it. Look, we can grind our own oats!" said Batali of his Challenge participation. "We want people to think about calling and talking to their representation about cuts to the Farm Bill and the food stamp program." Appearing on Lawrence O'Donnell (MSNBC), Batali noted that cutting SNAP/Food Stamp support is "preposterous," especially since 75 percent of benefits go to families with children. His Challenge experience required him to shop at four stores to make the budget work, a task he said was relatively easy in New York City, but would be difficult for people living in food deserts.

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## **6. SNAP/Food Stamp Fingerprinting to End in NYC**

([The New York Times](#), May 17, 2012; [The New York Times](#), May 17, 2012)

After a 45-day comment period, New York City will no longer require SNAP/Food Stamp recipients to be fingerprinted. The state stopped the fingerprinting requirement five years ago, but NYC Mayor Michael Bloomberg insisted the city needed it to prevent fraud. Benefits are now distributed on EBT cards which can be monitored electronically, and most states match names with Social Security numbers to avoid duplications. While 1.8 million NYC residents

receive SNAP/Food Stamps, 30 percent of those eligible – 1.4 million people - across the state have not signed up, which leaves more than \$1 billion in federal dollars that could be going to people who would spend the money in their communities. Fingerprinting is a “stigmatizing process that deters struggling families from getting the help they need,” notes this editorial. “Now Mr. Cuomo needs to push legislators to end fingerprinting for welfare applicants, which is still required by state law.” In a news conference, Governor Cuomo said “We shouldn’t treat the poor or the hungry as criminals. That’s what we’ve been doing and that’s what’s going to stop.”

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## **7. SNAP/Food Stamp Outreach Targets Ohio Seniors** ([Toledo Blade](#), May 11, 2012)

Toledo Area Ministries received a \$500,000 grant from USDA in 2009 to pilot SNAP/Food Stamp outreach to senior citizens. The organization helps screen seniors for SNAP/Food Stamp eligibility and assists clients with filling out applications. In 2009, only 34 percent of eligible people nationwide, age 60 or older, received SNAP/Food Stamps, according to USDA. Seniors either don’t know about the program, are unsure about the application process, or believe others – like families with small children - need the assistance more. Last year, 67-year-old Carl Smarage called Toledo Area Ministries to find food pantries where he could receive assistance, as his limited Social Security income wasn’t enough. “The next thing you know, I’m eligible for food stamps and some medical assistance for my medications,” he said. The \$58 in SNAP/Food Stamps he now receives enables him to buy additional food he wouldn’t normally afford.

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## **8. SNAP/Food Stamps Vital to Illinois Seniors** ([Sacramento Bee](#), May 15, 2012)

Without the SNAP/Food Stamp Program, more than 180,000 low-income Cook County, Illinois seniors would have trouble paying for food, according to a study

of older adult nutrition program coverage in the county by Social IMPACT Research Center, and commissioned by the Greater Chicago Food Depository. Seniors can be faced with the choice of paying for food and for medicine, or buying food versus paying the rent. “The other programs available to seniors, while playing an important role, simply do not have the same capacity as SNAP to fight hunger and food insecurity,” said report author Amy Terpstra, associate director of the Social IMPACT Research Center at Heartland Alliance. “The proposed cuts to the Farm Bill will lead to more hunger,” said Kate Maehr, executive director and CEO of the Food Depository. “The study underscores the need for strong federal nutrition programs so that older adults in Cook County have access to nutritious food.”

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### **9. Polls Find Public Supports SNAP/Food Stamps, Higher Taxes for Wealthy, and Less Defense Spending**

([The Fiscal Times](#), May 10, 2012)

A survey conducted by Hart Research Associates for the Food Research and Action Center in January reported 77 percent of 1,013 adults surveyed said the government should not reduce spending by cutting SNAP/Food Stamps; only 15 percent support SNAP/Food Stamp cuts. This mirrors an early April poll taken by The New York Times/CBS which found that voters preferred (by a 56-37 margin) “spending more on education and infrastructure while raising taxes on the wealthy,” rather than “lower taxes on business and individuals by cutting spending on some government programs.” A Gallup poll last October showed the public backing cuts in defense spending by a 54-46 margin. In the FRAC poll, 92 percent of Democrats said cutting SNAP/Food Stamps is the wrong way to cut spending, along with 74 percent of independents and 63 percent of Republicans. These opinion surveys suggest “the broad public is ready for a shift in spending priorities after a decade of war and fast-rising military spending, which more than doubled in the past decade,” notes this article.

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### **10. Study Finds School Breakfast Improves Student Academic**

## **Achievement**

([Toronto Globe and Mail](#), May 11, 2012)

A two-year study by the Toronto District School Board, which followed 6,000 Toronto students in four middle schools and three secondary schools where free breakfast was offered, found 78 percent of high school students eating free breakfast on most days were on track for graduation, compared with 61 percent who ate breakfast on a few days or not at all. “A child isn’t going to be focused on that math problem if he’s hungry,” said Catherine Parsonage, executive director and CEO of the Toronto Foundation for Student Success, the school board’s charitable arm. “We know that as parents...that’s why we chase our kids to eat breakfast. And kids in priority neighborhoods need that extra help.” Safety monitors at Emery Collegiate say they’re dealing with fewer student conflicts, according Monday Gala, the school’s vice principal. “It absolutely makes sense for all levels of political governments to be involved in making this happen for all students.”

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## **11. West Virginia to Participate in Community Eligibility Pilot for School Meals**

([The Republic](#), May 14, 2012)

West Virginia will be one of four states participating in the Community Eligibility Option pilot program. Under Community Eligibility, schools with 40 percent or more students qualifying for free school meals will be able to offer free meals to all students. At least 293 schools already qualify for Community Eligibility, which will help thousands more students take advantage of free breakfast and lunch this fall when the school year begins.

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## **12. Study Shows Increase in Senior Hunger**

([Philadelphia Inquirer](#), May 14, 2012)

A new report from the Meals on Wheels Research Foundation found that the

number of seniors experiencing hunger increased 80 percent between 2001 and 2010. About 8.3 million Americans aged 60 and over “face the threat of hunger.” The term is part of the Census Bureau’s Current Population Survey and was used by researchers to mean seniors expressed anxiety about having enough food and sometimes skipping meals because they lacked enough money to buy food. Nearly 15 percent of America’s seniors experienced hunger in 2010, compared with 10 percent in 2005. “The surprise was that things got worse for seniors,” said economist James Ziliak, co-author of the report. The report also found that the chance of an African American senior experiencing hunger was 132 percent higher than a white senior. In addition, seniors living with children were 50 percent more likely to experience hunger, possibly because they would sacrifice their own meals in order to feed their children. Seniors forget to eat, or are disabled, said Ziliak. Some run out of Social Security income near the end of the month and don’t have the funds to buy food. Others lack transportation to grocery stores. While SNAP/Food Stamps would help these seniors, only 30 percent of eligible seniors nationwide take part in the program.

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### **13. Many States Will Close Fiscal Year with Cash Surpluses** ([Financial Times](#), May 4, 2012)

A survey shows that Arizona, Indiana, New Jersey and New York are four of the 29 states that project revenues to exceed spending plans in the fiscal year that ends June 30. This is the first time since the recession began four years ago that a number of states expect to end the fiscal year with extra cash. “State fiscal conditions continue to improve at a slow and steady pace,” noted the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL), which conducted the study. The surpluses are resulting from boosts in tax revenues and reduced state tax pressure; states facing budget gaps report those gaps are relatively small when compared with recent years. “Despite this encouraging news, a degree of uncertainty still lingers over state budgets,” said NCSL. Local level budget problems are worsening, as U.S. cities rely on property taxes, and the housing market declines have a delayed effect on those taxes.

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## **14. Government and American Public Have Different Opinions on Defense Spending**

([The Washington Post](#), May 11, 2012)

A study, recently released by the Center for Public Integrity, found that, on average, the public wants 18 percent of the nation's defense budget cut - \$103.5 billion, with Republicans on average wanting \$74 billion in defense cuts, Democrats \$124.4 billion in cuts, and Independents want a reduction of \$112.2 billion. Survey participants may have even wanted more cuts, but only evaluated 87 percent of defense discretionary spending. These cuts, when compared to what the government is proposing, show "a sizable gap – perhaps even a missile-sized gap," said former Washington Post reporter and Center for Public Integrity editor R. Jeffrey Smith. Participants in the study were as well-informed as possible, and considered context, information and detailed opposing viewpoints.

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About Us: The Food Research and Action Center ([www.frac.org](http://www.frac.org)) is the leading national organization working for more effective public and private policies to eradicate domestic hunger and undernutrition. Visit our Web site ([www.frac.org](http://www.frac.org)) to learn more. Click [here](#) to unsubscribe from this e-mail.