

## Farmers markets and distribution:

- Best practices, tips, and examples for farmers markets:  
<https://farmersmarketcoalition.org/covid-19-crisis-farmers-market-new-guidelines/>
- Template letter for Reopening [NAME OF MARKET] As Essential Service During COVID-19 Outbreak  
[https://docs.google.com/document/d/1\\_pffa9C2f3JTauySA8c8AsLvr9Z3YiCahRUQGWaHej8/edit](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1_pffa9C2f3JTauySA8c8AsLvr9Z3YiCahRUQGWaHej8/edit)
- PA Farm Markets: <https://pafarm.com/resources/covid-19-resources/>

## Essential worker status for grocery store workers:

- On Sunday, Minnesota Governor Tim Walz signed an executive order providing free childcare for all workers **deemed essential** for the state's response to the COVID-19 pandemic. This includes the grocery store clerks and shelf stockers helping keep grocery stores functioning as shoppers fill their pantries with food for potential quarantine. Vermont is developing a **similar childcare reimbursement plan** that could also include grocery workers.  
<https://civileats.com/2020/03/20/op-ed-food-workers-are-on-the-frontlines-of-coronavirus-they-need-our-support/>
- United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW), has **petitioned** governors across the country to officially classify their 1.3 million members in supermarkets, pharmacies and processing plants not merely as essential, but as first responders—a status conferred to firefighters, police, and paramedics.  
[https://thecounter.org/covid-19-coronavirus-grocery-supermarket-emergency-workers-vermont-minnesota-whole-foods/?utm\\_source=The+Counter+Subscribers&utm\\_campaign=c3e95e5b99-EMAIL\\_CAMPAIGN\\_2020\\_03\\_10\\_06\\_24\\_COPY\\_01&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_75a28a0eaf-c3e95e5b99-511750309](https://thecounter.org/covid-19-coronavirus-grocery-supermarket-emergency-workers-vermont-minnesota-whole-foods/?utm_source=The+Counter+Subscribers&utm_campaign=c3e95e5b99-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2020_03_10_06_24_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_75a28a0eaf-c3e95e5b99-511750309)

## Farmworker Protections:

- Worker Justice Center of NY: Governor Cuomo, NY State legislature, and NY State assembly should take swift action to ensure the health, safety, and well-being of New York's farmworkers during the COVID-19 pandemic by:
  - Developing a coordinated plan to address the unique needs of the agricultural workforce, including accessible know-your-rights materials, free testing in rural communities, and food and clean water.
  - Requiring agricultural employers to inform workers about their rights to COVID-19-related benefits, like paid sick leave, paid family leave, and temporary disability.
  - Extending unemployment benefits to H-2A workers affected by COVID-19.
  - Providing direct financial assistance to farmworker families regardless of immigration status.

- Mandating health and safety protocols specific to COVID-19 for agricultural operations and farm labor camps.
- Worker Justice Center of NY letter to Governor Cuomo:  
[https://d3n8a8pro7vhmx.cloudfront.net/wjcnny/pages/231/attachments/original/1585188910/NY\\_Farm\\_Worker\\_COVID\\_Response\\_Letter\\_to\\_Lawmakers\\_3.25.20\\_FINAL.pdf?1585188910](https://d3n8a8pro7vhmx.cloudfront.net/wjcnny/pages/231/attachments/original/1585188910/NY_Farm_Worker_COVID_Response_Letter_to_Lawmakers_3.25.20_FINAL.pdf?1585188910)

#### SNAP:

- Online SNAP use: <https://www.fns.usda.gov/snap/online-purchasing-pilot>
- SNAP Federal Benefits CA1:  
[https://www.lvfp.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/SNAP-supplement\\_final\\_LVFPC.pdf](https://www.lvfp.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/SNAP-supplement_final_LVFPC.pdf)

COVID-19 Resources and shared practices for FPCs (also has good general state policy resources):

[https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1Vt8k5weMC0qFWnQinprZdHC9-7A\\_PNh\\_WxzVo8EzTqw/edit#gid=1259436417](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1Vt8k5weMC0qFWnQinprZdHC9-7A_PNh_WxzVo8EzTqw/edit#gid=1259436417)

General state-level COVID ag policies:

- PA: <https://www.agriculture.pa.gov/Pages/COVID-19.aspx>
- ME: <https://www.maine.gov/dacf/covid19/index.shtml>
- WV:  
[https://docs.google.com/document/d/10LDYX4OIngpwYAPvQVRVshwxAW6lgtVHxDHW7xOz3Rhw/edit?fbclid=IwAR00A3Z5rvjqutEfsFBxncN4TyguPw1KbuX-xVS5bPEZMSn\\_7k0wWqydIO](https://docs.google.com/document/d/10LDYX4OIngpwYAPvQVRVshwxAW6lgtVHxDHW7xOz3Rhw/edit?fbclid=IwAR00A3Z5rvjqutEfsFBxncN4TyguPw1KbuX-xVS5bPEZMSn_7k0wWqydIO)
- Adirondacks:  
<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Pol9X8pvRIHGZ1BQt48jPYv0zSZExLW2oJ29hl3SfX8/edit>

Organizational state policy platforms/other info:

- PA: These are PASA's recommendations for USDA's 9.5B.  
file:///C:/Users/Owner/Downloads/Ideas%20for%20C-3%20\$9.5B.pdf
- MA: <https://mafoodsystem.org/media/resources/pdfs/farmfishpolicycovid.pdf>
  - <https://mafoodsystem.org/media/resources/pdfs/foodsystempolicycovid.pdf>
  - **Misc. Concerns:**
    - Direct sales are up for many small farms, though those which rely on institutional contracts (restaurants/schools) are hurting.
    - Increased expenses making changes to decrease potential contamination (ie. gloves, masks, bags)
    - Supply chain concerns, including new sanitary supplies
  - **Financial assistance for farmworkers laid off and farm owners losing income**

- State assistance with paid sick leave
- Grants (not 0% loans)
- [\*AFT is organizing a Trust. \\$1000 micro-grants\*](#)
- concerns that if they're sick they'll come in anyways because they can't afford to lose money. Small farms can't afford to pay them paid sick leave
- Related: a program to provide relief workers for sick farmers
- **\*\*\*Need for authoritative guidance**
  - how best to keep workers and public safe
    - Farmers piecing it together from multiple sources
    - Lots of resources, but nothing authoritative (that needs to come from the state)
  - Farms seeing increased demand could absorb a lot of employees (ie. restaurant workers).
    - How best to onboard them while observing social distancing, etc?
- **Prioritize AB testing for foodsystem workers**
  - Would be great to get the AB tests, know who's had it already to make sure they're on the frontline
- **Technical assistance and funding for transitioning to online sales**
  - survey/orientation/clearinghouse of platforms and emerging local initiatives
  - Should be a coordinated effort for online sales/delivery (NGO/coop)
  - Assistance promoting online sales platforms
  - Funds for farms quickly moving to set up "on-farm" stands, curbside pickup, and other direct to consumer "no-touch" distribution channels
- **Availability of H2A workers**
  - Mexican and Jamaican consulates closed, only processing "emergency visas"
  - Need to have farmworkers prioritized!
  - "we urge the federal government to recognize all H-2A, as well as any other non-immigrant visa petition involving an agricultural worker, visa consular processing functions as "essential" and direct the U.S. Consulates to treat all agricultural worker appointments as emergency visa services."
  - American Farm Bureau making this a priority, working with Sec. Purdue's office to resolve.
- **Farmworkers and Farmers market "essential" under lockdown** (for now, need to keep it that way)

- **Keeping farmers markets open at the local level**
  - Decisions made locally. Need to make sure municipalities/boards know that farmers markets are considered essential, are aware of best practices to reduce risks
  - Work in coordination with Mass. Farmers Market
- RI: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1ErpJzSFYf2ccqfZoA5Ejpua3zJJCjJaV/view>
- NC:
  - State government has:
    - clarified that farmers markets are in the same category as grocery stores ("essential services")
    - DHHS released some draft health & safety guidelines for farmers who employ farmworkers (which, we think, will result in \*very little\* compliance without additional resources to support those guidelines).
    - the governor requested a disaster declaration from the federal government, which would make disaster unemployment assistance available (we helped some farmers access DUA after the last hurricanes and it was a pain but eventually worked).
  - Our other ideas so far in terms of state-level asks are:
    - mobilize resources and services to support farmer compliance with the DHHS farmworker COVID-19 guidelines
    - use rainy day funds for another disaster loss program (similar to what NC did post-hurricane last time), but ensure it's based on \*revenue\* loss, not crop loss (could go more into detail here if you want)
    - push for better rural broadband