

MA Local Food Action Plan Priorities

Listed by MA Food Policy Council member state agency and industry representatives

MA Department of Agricultural Resources

Commissioner John Lebeaux

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Tier 1 Priorities	Committee/ Team	Recommendations/Notes:
		<i>Significant, MDAR uniquely positioned to lead, significant staff resources. Tied to MDAR, EEA, GOV &/or NASDA goals/policy priorities; public, animal, economic & environmental health, impacts to farmers.</i>
Inputs: Action 1.5.10 - Convert On-Farm & Local Food Wastes to Animal Feed: Assist farmers in the conversion of on-farm and local food wastes to be converted into animal feed where appropriate.	Agency-Wide; Animal Health	Animal Health Proposal: The Department has recently entered into a contract (03 Consultant) with a veterinary nutritionist from the University of Connecticut. This contractor has provided assistance with determining the nutritional value of food waste used as a supplemental feed source, and further advised what additional feed would be necessary to provide a balanced ration. The previous consultations were based on enforcement cases which the Division of Animal Health had asserted the farmer had failed to provide adequate sustenance. Since then, the Division has received requests from farmers looking to ensure a balanced ration before switching over. The Department could pay the consultant to provide these assessments, or, if cost was a concern, simply provide contact information for qualified veterinary nutritionists to provide such analysis.
Farming: Action 2.2.3 - Establish State Livestock Care & Standards Board: Establish a state livestock care and standards board to ensure that livestock is treated humanely.	Agency-Wide; Animal Health	Animal Health Proposal: It is quite likely that the Department will not only be asked to participate, but may be asked to chair such a board. The Department could facilitate the establishment of this board without being required to do so by the legislature. The Division of Animal Health represents the Department as part of the Zoonotic Disease Advisory Committee, which is an ad hoc committee established by the Department of Public Health. Such a committee or board may not have regulatory authority, but with an array of interested parties represented, joint statements could certainly hold sway with law makers and regulatory agencies.

<p>Marketing: Action 1.2.2 MDAR Brand's Evaluation & Initiatives: Dedicate funding to engage outside expertise to evaluate the effectiveness of existing MDAR brands including Mass Grown and Fresher, Made with Pride, Savor Massachusetts, Commonwealth Quality, and other local and regional brands. Based on the findings, develop funding and marketing recommendations for revived programs for a new branding initiative. Develop program requirements to ensure that any products bearing the brands are grown, processed, and distributed following appropriate food safety standards and using environmentally sustainable practices. Develop and implement strategies to educate the public about the program's standards. Provide funding for a full time brand manager based at MDAR to oversee the branding program.</p>	<p>Agricultural Markets</p>	<p>Include MA Seafood and forestry products marketing in the conversation. Agricultural Markets will explore grant opportunities for a feasibility study of MDAR's brands. Study results will inform the state's branding and marketing initiative. Federal Grants such as the Federal State Market Improvement Program (FSMIP) will be explored. FSMIP projects focus on market research and market development.</p>
<p>Marketing: Action 1.2.3: Establish a Massachusetts Marketing Board comprised of buy-local, commodity groups, appropriate State agencies to facilitate coordination of branding and marketing efforts where appropriate.</p>	<p>Agricultural Markets</p>	<p>Ag Markets can work with the agricultural industry and partners to establish a Massachusetts Marketing Board.</p>
<p>Processing: Action 4.1.13 - Local Food Processing Facilities & Equipment: Establish and distribute funds for local food processing facilities and equipment, especially where funds support initiatives that increase local food procurement and support job growth.</p>	<p>Agency-Wide</p>	<p>MDAR's MFVP grant program can support this initiative. MDAR is partnering with MOBD and Mass Development to elevate awareness of programs and services that support food processing facilities and equipment.</p>
<p>Farming: Action 3.1.4 - Agricultural Innovations Center: Restore funding for the Agricultural Innovations Center to foster new and innovative ideas to adding value to the Commonwealth's agricultural economy, and sharing those ideas throughout the industry.</p>	<p>Agency-Wide</p>	

<p>Distribution: Action 5.1.1 - Strengthen Commonwealth Quality Program (CQP): Expand the role and purpose of CQP as a sustainability program and a food safety certification and regulatory certainty program. Gather data and modify key program requirements to increase the local use of CQP as a market access tool for wholesalers and retailers. Increase participation in the CQP program, through outreach and education, for direct-market farms to ensure they employ and maintain the same food safety and environmental practice requirements as farms required to do so for market access. Develop resources to provide food safety regulation information, technical assistance and training including through MDAR, DPH and UMass Extension. Adopt CQP as Massachusetts' farm food safety standard to meet all federal requirements. Establish a system of certification pre-audits that are available for producers prior to official audit. Ensure that MDAR has personnel resources to conduct audits or contract with third parties to audit. Create instructional resources for producers on the food safety protocols along the value chain, especially as FSMA is implemented. Develop and integrate throughout MDAR and UMass Extension technical assistance to producers in obtaining and maintaining food safety certifications as required by buyers and FSMA, along with technical assistance for the Commonwealth Quality Program and GAP.</p>		<p>MDAR expects support to move forward on all this issues through grant funding. Efforts are already underway to establish a CQP technical steering committee with members of MDAR, DEP, DCR, DMF, UMASS Extension and other identified State and Federal partners to maintain program sector requirements and provide timely science-based updates to the program as well as emerging regulatory inclusion.</p>
<p>Processing: Action 3.2.9 - Market Feasibility Assessment for Meat, Dairy & Value-Added Food Production: Assess the market feasibility for meat processing, dairy processing, and other value-added food production, and support business development as the state and New England markets demand.</p>	<p>Agricultural Markets</p>	<p>A market feasibility study could be a FSMIP (Federal State Market Improvement Program) grant application.</p>
<p>FASH: Action 3.1.3 - Expand Health Food Purchasing Incentives to SNAP Retailers Statewide: Identify methods of expanding healthy food purchasing incentives to all SNAP retailers statewide including grocery stores, corner stores and bodegas.</p>	<p>Agricultural Markets</p>	<p>MA Public Health Association is working on legislation to secure funding for this. DTA and Partners for a Healthier Community with support from the Tufts Health Care foundation have convened a Mobile Market Community of Practice. To date, there have been 2 meetings, with MDAR participating. Mobile markets from Massachusetts and throughout the region are attending.</p>

<p>Land: Action 2.1.1 - APR: Establish a legislatively-appointed task force to develop a state Farmland Action Plan, and provide necessary funding for its development. Members of the task force should include representatives of state agencies, farm and conservation organizations, University of Massachusetts, and other academic institutions with expertise in agricultural land data analysis, modeling, and mapping, regional planning agencies, and USDA-NRCS.</p>	<p>APR Program</p>	<p>The APR Program Goal of the State Farmland Plan should be to look at those farms that are not currently eligible for the APR program.</p>
<p>Land: Action 2.1.1 - Technical Assistance to Farmers/ Climate Change: Increase technical assistance to farmers around crop and livestock-specific climate change adaptation strategies. Include climate change adaptation strategies as eligible practices under USDA's Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP).</p>	<p>DACTA Division/ UMass</p>	
<p>Land: Action 3.7.1 - Wetlands Protection Act Review: Re-establish the state Wetlands Protection Act oversight/advisory committee. Task the Committee with analyzing how farmland across the Commonwealth has been impacted by state and federal wetlands laws and regulations, and the potential impacts of restoring prior farmland to active agricultural use. Task the Committee with developing recommendations related to restoration of prior farmlands to active agricultural use and the need and advisability of statutory or regulatory changes related to the Act's agricultural provisions, including the 5-year production window to qualify for the agricultural exemption.</p>	<p>DEP/DACTA Division/ NRCS/ Farmers/ Conservation Commissions/ Conservation Districts</p>	<p>Wetlands Protection Act Review: Update the state Farming in Wetlands guide (last updated in 1996), and include new examples of situations involving the Wetlands Protection Act agricultural exemption. Provide training to farmers and Agriculture Commissions on the guide and the agricultural exemption. Require Conservation Commission members to take a training course on the agriculture exemption.</p>
<p>Land: Action 1.4.1 - Funding: Fully expend all existing bond authorizations for APR, Farm Viability and Agricultural Environmental Enhancement Program (AEEP) by 2018. Increase funding for the following programs: Agricultural Food Safety Improvement, APR (consistent with goals set in the Farmland Action Plan), Farm Viability Enhancement (by 25%), Ag Environmental Enhancement in subsequent authorizations.</p>		
<p>Land: Action 3.15.1 - Focus analysis on Gateway Cities to assess the potential for those cities to support both short- and long- term urban agriculture on vacant and underutilized land. Work with city planners to inventory these municipalities' surplus land and prioritize based upon criteria developed in the action plan as called for in Recommendation 2.1. Consider using Health Impact Assessments to evaluate soil remediation on urban land.</p>		<p>MDAR is working with municipal planners around zoning issues and ordinance development. This provides a platform to develop our education of city planners further. MDAR's second annual workshop for municipal planners was held on Friday March 11, 2016.</p>

Land: Action 3.15.3 - Provide technical assistance to Gateway City municipal officials on creating mutually beneficial lease agreements with urban farmers, both commercial and not-for-profit.		
Land: Action 1.7.3/ Inputs: Action 3.2.2: Climate Change Adaptation: Increase technical assistance to farmers around crop and livestock-specific climate change adaptation strategies. Include climate change adaptation strategies as eligible practices under USDA's Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). Provide the resources and technical assistance needed to help farmers adapt to increased impacts from flooding, drought, and other expected impacts of climate change.		
Inputs: Action 3.2.1 - Water Conservation: Develop and disseminate guidelines on voluntary on-farm water conservation best practices.		
Farming: Action 1.3.6 - Climate Change Adaptation: Establish and support regional and local crop breeding programs and seed libraries to facilitate geographically strategic genetic preservation and to address the impacts of climate change.		
Farming: Action 3.1.3: Continue funding for integrated pest management education and research, with a focus on new invasive species and the need for production of new crop species that better tolerate the effects of climate change.	Crop and Pest Services	MDAR/CPS can work with UMASS extension services regarding IPM and the reduction of pesticide use.
Inputs: Action 3.3.3 - FSMA: Provide technical and financial support to farmers for irrigation and waste water testing, to assist in compliance with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) regulations and USDA's Good Agricultural Practice (GAP) certification.	MDAR/ Crop and Pest Services	Evaluate how the GAP/GHP program overlaps with FSMA.
Farming: Action - 1.3.3: Improve programs offered by MDAR and UMass Extension to aid farmers in understanding and addressing the demands of the federal Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA), other federal food safety regulations, and third party audit systems, particularly as they relate to farmers' ability to sell at farmers markets and access other retail and wholesale outlets.		This is addressed in the Distribution: Action 5.1.1 section above.
Inputs: Action 1.5.10: Assist farmers in the conversion of on-farm and local food wastes to be converted into animal feed where appropriate.		

Inputs: Action 1.4.3: Develop a market for solids and liquids produced during the anaerobic digestion process.		
Farming: Action 2.2.2: Engage farmers and other relevant stakeholders in a review of nutrient management regulations; update as needed.	MDAR/Crop and Pest Services	
Inputs: Action 2.1.1 - Nutrient Management Planning and Implementation: Expand nutrient management planning and implementation technical assistance, especially in light of the new regulatory requirements.		The NRCS, UMass Extension, Massachusetts' Conservation Districts, and other technical assistance providers should provide increased resources and expertise.
<i>Tier 2 Priorities (Active Engagement, MDAR leads as appropriate and engages thru coalitions.)</i>		
Inputs: Action 1.5.7 - MA Produced Composting Marketing Efforts: Include Massachusetts-produced compost in marketing efforts for locally produced agricultural products.	Agricultural Markets	Consider mapping compost locations so consumer can find and purchase local good quality compost.
Processing: Action 3.2.3 - Identify Feasibility Processing Projects for Meat, Dairy & Value-Added & Leverage USDA Funds: Leverage USDA funds to facilitate implementation of identified feasible processing projects for meat, dairy & value added.		This is a larger-scale project that may benefit from a multi-sector approach including representatives from the dairy, meat, and other sectors.
Processing: Action 4.1.8 - Assess Capacity for Food Hubs/Food Innovation Centers: Assess the need, capacity, and site suitability for food hubs or food innovation centers that perform a combination of services, food processing, food retail, and product research and development. The activities may take place in one facility, or may be occurring as a part of a larger network of activities.	Agency-Wide; Agricultural Markets	This would be an appropriate FSMIP grant opportunity and a possible outcome would be a guide to state-wide processing and distribution.
Processing: Action 3.5.1 - Inventory MA Food Processing Facilities & Infrastructure Mapping: Inventory food processing facilities in Massachusetts, and use the inventory to create a map that identifies facility age, condition, state of use, state of business growth, available capacity, and need for upgrades, and need for new facilities. (and as it relates to food processing demand...)	Agency-Wide; Agricultural Markets	Important for efficiency to support new food and ag businesses of many sizes. Potential USDA Value-added grant opportunity. Mapping and an inventory of food processing facilities in MA would be an important addition to other mapping initiatives regarding the MA food system.

Processing: Action 4.1.1 - Inventory Existing Food System Infrastructure & Assess Needs: Inventory existing infrastructure, system linkages, capacity, efficiencies, and bottlenecks, and assess current and projected needs for food aggregation storage, processing, and distribution strategies in Massachusetts and regionally.	Agricultural Markets	This action can be discussed with the Harvest New England Committee as a multistate FSMIP or Specialty Crop project through regional collaboration with other state departments of Ag.
Marketing: Action 1.3.1 - Marketing Plans Technical Assistance for Farms: Strengthen technical assistance capability within MDAR to help farms develop integrated, cost effective marketing plans for both retail and wholesale channel development.	Agency-Wide; Agricultural Markets	Market Division Staff will work with Department staff and other partners to inventory resources for market plan development and then promote those contacts.
Processing: Action 5.1.2 - Feasibility of Expanding Food Business Incubation via Commerical Kitchen Infrastructure: Determine feasibility of expanding food business incubation through the use of existing commercial kitchen infrastructure.	Agency-Wide; Agricultural Markets	This action can be supported through MDAR's Urban Ag and new Food Ventures grant programs.
Processing: Action 5.3.1 - Increase Business Development Training & Financing Options: Increase business development training in conjunction with financing options. Develop an inventory of training resources and connect with Buy Locals.		Support ongoing efforts by community development corporations, The Carrot Project, Sustainable Business Alliance, Interise, the Salem Enterprise Center, and others
Distribution: Action 2.3.5 - Food Distribution, Storage & Aggregation Operations Map & List: Create and maintain a publicly available list and map of distribution, storage, and aggregation operations, including capacity, location, and services for produce, farm products, processed food, and fish and other seafood.	Agency-Wide; Agricultural Markets	MDAR can support the development of a list of distributors with information about their capacity and services. DMF is a likely partner for the fish and seafood connections.
Marketing: Action 1.3.5 - Facilitate the Development of Direct Sales Relationships: Dedicate MDAR staff resources to facilitate interactions between growers and producers of Massachusetts foods, retail and wholesale buyers, and individual businesses, to develop direct sales relationships.	Agricultural Markets	Markets Division Staff can further explore the direction given in the action plan to determine the best opportunity for implementation.
Distribution: Action 7.2.2 - Develop Online System to Connect Producers & Buyers: Develop and maintain an accessible, central inventory of institutions, farmers, fishermen, processors, and agencies in the farm-to-institution network to facilitate communication and distribution among the producers, buyers, and organizing agencies.	Agricultural Markets in collaboration with industry partners	A public - private collaborative. This project initiative would be a good candidate for grant funding - possibly a Federal State Market Improvement Program.

<p>Processing: Action 3.2.2 - Support Food Processing Entrepreneurs: Provide food processing entrepreneurs with technical assistance, financing resources, and business plan support in the startup phase, prioritizing businesses that use Massachusetts agricultural or seafood products as primary ingredients. Conduct a survey to establish technical assistance needs and create an inventory of existing technical assistance resources. Based on the survey results, develop education and support resources for food business operators and innovators related to creating business connections, becoming finance-ready, and accessing financing.</p>	<p>Agricultural Markets in collaboration with industry partners</p>	<p>MDAR can work with the MA Food Collaborative's working groups with members such as the Carrot Project for the inventory.</p>
<p>Distribution: Action 2.1.2 - Retailers & Distributors Education, Promoting MA Products: Educate retailers and distributors about the benefits of carrying and promoting Massachusetts products.</p>	<p>Agricultural Markets in collaboration with industry partners</p>	<p>Ag Markets staff can work with industry officials to develop plans.</p>
<p>Distribution: Action 2.1.3 - Distributors Education, MA Local Wholesale Products: Provide information to distributors about locally grown, raised, caught, and produced products available for wholesale in the state</p>	<p>Agricultural Markets in collaboration with industry partners</p>	<p>Ag Markets staff can work with industry officials to develop plans.</p>
<p>Distribution: Action 2.4.2 - Resources for Food System Businesses to Support Local Goods: Disseminate information to food system businesses about programs that support purchasing of local goods, including E.O. 503 Small Business Purchasing Program and the Supplier Diversity Program.</p>	<p>Agricultural Markets in collaboration with industry partners</p>	<p>MDAR can develop information about these programs and promote on our webpage and in the Farm and Market report.</p>
<p>FASH: Action 5.1.5 - Develop and share standardized contract language for all state agencies and municipal purchasers to enable greater purchasing of Massachusetts-produced food products. Encourage medical institutions to modify food procurement contract language to purchase more locally produced healthy foods, including setting local food procurement benchmark of at least 20%.</p>	<p>Agricultural Markets in collaboration with industry partners</p>	<p>Ag Markets staff can work with FINE on this objective.</p>
<p>Distribution: Action 3.3.2 - Farm-to-Small-Wholesale & Retail Business Models: Develop farm-to-small-wholesale and -retail business models (including bodegas) to sell frozen, ambient-temperature, and refrigerated produce. Develop grant programs to support the models.</p>	<p>Agricultural Markets and appropriate entities</p>	<p>FSMIP Grant opportunity and also important to explore work previously done in this area.</p>

<p>Distribution: Action 7.3.3 - Food Procurement Practices, Institutions Challenges: Work with institutions on navigating challenges related to changing food procurement practices. Establish a tracking mechanism and reporting requirement for local food purchasing by public institutions. Develop guidelines for private institutions to create policies and standards for increasing local food procurement. Develop and maintain an accessible, central inventory of institutions, farmers, fishermen, processors, and agencies in the farm-to-institution network to facilitate communication and distribution among the producers, buyers, and organizing agencies. Track, label, and market local food distributed through farm-to-institution channels as 'local.' promote best practices for local food procurement. Build on best practices used by institutions procuring local food, and research from buy-local groups and other industry service providers, including by expanding efforts to collectively procure local food by public institutions and by developing innovative procurement practices to enable more regular local food purchasing, particularly in public schools. Extend local food procurement programming to more public and private institutions, including primary and secondary schools, universities, hospitals, health care facilities, correctional facilities, elder care facilities, restaurants, grocery stores, and other food retail businesses.</p>	<p>Agricultural Markets in collaboration with industry partners</p>	<p>Ag Markets staff can work with FINE as part of the team to offer training programs to educate institutional purchasers on local food procurement, from food purchasing to preparation.</p>
<p>Distribution: Action 7.1.4 - Public Institutions, Local Food Purchasing Tracking: Establish a tracking mechanism and reporting requirement for local food purchasing by public institutions.</p>	<p>Agricultural Markets in collaboration with industry partners</p>	<p>Ag Markets staff can work with MA Farm to School and FINE on this action.</p>
<p>Marketing: Action 1.2.1 - Implement stronger Massachusetts and local branding in the food supply chain: Develop standardized guidelines regarding the use of the word 'local' when advertising and marketing food. The guidelines should be designed primarily to support Massachusetts growers, fishermen, manufacturers, and retailers, and secondarily to support New England growers, fishermen, manufacturers, and retailers.</p>	<p>Agricultural Markets in collaboration with industry and agency partners.</p>	

<p>FASH: Action 6.1.1 - Increase purchase of locally produced food through the Massachusetts Emergency Food Assistance Program (MEFAP): Identify ways and implement strategies to increase distribution and production of culturally appropriate and preferred foods available for purchase through MEFAP. Modify food procurement contract language to utilize at least 10% of MEFAP dollars to purchase locally produced, healthy food. Identify what, if any, shelf-stable, non-perishable food products purchased through MEFAP have the potential to be grown or produced in Massachusetts, and support the production of identified item(s) for inclusion in the program. Identify capacity and efficiency limitations related to the distribution of locally produced, healthy food in emergency food distribution facilities, such as refrigeration, storage, and timely acceptance of donations that may be limiting the capacity of food pantries and meals programs. Identify funding and implement solutions.</p>		
<p>FASH Action 7.4.4 - Increase the affordability of CSA memberships among low income residents.</p>	<p>Department of Transitional Assistance (DTA) initiative - MDAR/Agricultural Markets</p>	<p>This will be the third year of the SNAP CSA Pilot initiated by DTA which allow SNAP participants to have monthly deductions from their EBT account to pay for a CSA share. As FINI comes on board later this years, the costs will be matched up to \$40, \$60, or \$80 a</p>
<p>Processing: Action 4.2.2 - Incentivize food processors to incorporate more locally-sourced raw products for processing and packaging.</p>	<p>Agricultural Markets</p>	<p>MDAR will promote the Carrot Project's loan program that incentivizes using local produce in processing.</p>
<p>Marketing: Action 1.4.4 - Expand the State's culinary tourism and agritourism programs to draw visitors to farms and businesses that feature locally grown and produced products, such as dairies, wineries, distilleries, cider producers, agricultural events, festivals, and restaurants that feature local products.</p>	<p>Agricultural Markets in collaboration with MA Office of Travel & Tourism (MOTT) and other appropriate partners.</p>	<p>MDAR will continue to work closely with MOTT to build awareness of these businesses.</p>
<p>Land: Action 3.17.1 - Support state and municipal tax incentives to encourage short- and long- term use of urban land and buildings for food production, such as for the installation of green roofs that include food production and the transformation of vacant lots into community gardens.</p>		<p>An important goal that would require a significant multi-party collaboration and possibly legislation.</p>
<p>Inputs: Action 3.3.4 - Provide more technical support to urban farmers on water quality impacts from urban farming.</p>		<p>An Extension function.</p>
<p>Inputs: Action 3.3.7 - Develop a model ordinance to exempt urban farms from sewerage fees.</p>		<p>Important issue to address as the costs of these connections can be a barrier.</p>

<p>Inputs: Action 3.3.8 -Streamline water connection requirements for urban farms, eliminating unnecessary requirements and reducing connection costs. Change municipal ordinances to allow and encourage water catchment systems and other green infrastructure on urban farms. Increase municipal solutions for more water conservation, including targeted property and home-owner education, in urban, suburban, and rural areas. Research the impact that urban agriculture has on storm water runoff reduction and treatment.</p>		<p>Water connection costs are prohibitive to most urban agriculture enterprises ,important issue to address. Could lead to opportunities to support, through pilot projects, a model that both tackles innovative water conservation and lower infrastructure costs for urban farms.</p>
<p>Land: Action 3.4.2 - Encourage more cities to adopt Right to Farm bylaws and ordinances.</p>		<p>MDAR should monitor and engage if there is an increased interest.</p>
<p>Inputs: Action 2.3.1 -Technical Assistance to Famers/ Organics and Nutrient Management: Encourage the appropriate use of fertilizers and expand nutrient management technical assistance to provide guidance to farmers on the exact types and amounts of nutrients needed. Expand nutrient management planning and implementation technical assistance, especially in light of the new regulatory requirements. The NRCS, UMass Extension, Massachusetts’ Conservation Districts, and other technical assistance providers should provide increased resources and expertise.</p>		<p>UMass/ MDAR/ CPS/NRCS/ Conservation Districts. MDAR Provides funding to MACD to conduct nutrient management</p>
<p>Inputs: Action 2.3.2 - Technical Assistance to Farmers/Organics and Nutrient Management: Provide education and guidelines for alternatives to typical soil amendments, such as wood ash and paper fibers. There needs to be greater availability of information about these amendments and guidance from MDAR on their proper utilization.</p>		<p>UMass/ Crop Services Division/ NRCS/ Compost Program</p>
<p>Inputs: Action 2.3.2 - Education and guidelines for alternatives to typical soil amendments, such as wood ash and paper fibers.</p>		<p>There needs to be greater availability of information about these amendments and guidance from MDAR on their proper utilization.</p>
<p>Inputs: Action 2.2.1 - Provide financial support beyond what NRCS now provides and expand markets for cover crops.</p>		<p>UMass Extension is researching cover crops and can help identify new markets such as using grain for the craft beer industry.</p>
<p>Land: Action 3.17.2: Research production methods for rooftop crops, including minimizing environmental contamination.</p>		
<p>Farming: Action 3.1.11 - Encourage farmer participation in USDA’s Census of Agriculture and other surveys so that the agricultural sector of the economy is better understood, and accurate data is available for formula-based federal grants and programs.</p>		

Processing: Action 3.5.3 - Develop opportunities for processing and preserving surplus produce that may otherwise be wasted.		
<i>Tier 3 Priorities (Monitor, engage as resources allow/if developments increase urgency of issue)</i>		
Processing: Action 4.2.2 - Consider incentives to use local ingredients in value added products.		
Processing: Form a committee to review all state laws and regulations relative to livestock processing, as well as the Commonwealth's current livestock slaughter and processing capacity, and make recommendations for improvements.		
Land: Action 4.1.1 -Educate farmers, including beginning and urban farmers about state and federal conservation programs.		
Land: Action 3.17.3 - Provide education and technical assistance to builders, developers, and municipal building authorities on green roof installation and maintenance, edible landscaping, and other alternative methods for growing food in an urban environment, including living walls, vertical greenhouses, hydroponics, and aquaponics.		MDAR should monitor and engage if there is an increased interest, possibly through partnership and covering opportunities.
Land: Action 3.2.9 - Where needed, develop model contracts and leases that municipalities can use to lease city-owned land for farming. Train municipal land use managers and planners on these tools.		
Land: Action 3.4.1 - Provide technical assistance and model zoning bylaws and ordinances to encourage municipalities to support the use of land, rooftops, and		MDAR should monitor/engage if there is an increased interest - through partnership and covering opportunities.
Land: Action 3.16.1 - Host information sessions and provide other technical assistance for communities interested in forming community land trusts, involving existing land trusts as well.		MDAR should monitor and engage if there is an increased interest, possibly through partnership and covering opportunities.

<p>Land: Action 3.4.4 - Educate municipal officials and citizen advocates about the availability of state funds for this purpose, including Local Acquisitions for Natural Diversity (LAND), Parkland Acquisitions and Renovations Program (PARC), Community Forest Stewardship Implementation, and Urban Agriculture. Advocate for dedicated funding conduct soil testing, and import or remediate soil on prioritized land in Gateway Cities and other cities. Consider using the MEPA process to secure clean soil from development projects that could replace contaminated soils in urban locations. Provide more public education on best management practices for urban gardening in locations with known or suspected soil contamination. Provide funding for soil testing.</p>		<p>MDAR should monitor and engage if there is an increased interest, through partnership and convening opportunities. Soil contamination and soil testing could be addressed through DEP and UMass Extension.</p>
<p>Land: Action 2.3.3 - APR: Increase the APR program's current per-acre cap.</p>	<p>APR Policy Issue</p>	
<p>Land: Action 2.5.1 - APR/ ALPC: Task MDAR and the ALPC with convening an annual forum to evaluate progress through the APR Program and to invite stakeholder input on APR program policies.</p>		<p>ALPC role is limited to approval of acquisitions and hearing appeals of Department decisions. However, ALPC meetings are open to the public.</p>
<p>Land: Action 2.5.2 - APR/ ALPC: Establish a coalition of agriculture, conservation, forestry, and smart growth organizations to work together and with the ALPC and state and federal agencies to identify and take action on common issues and priorities around farmland protection.</p>		<p>ALPC role is limited to approval of acquisitions and hearing appeals of Department decisions. However, ALPC meetings are open to the public.</p>
<p>Land: Action 3.2.8 - State Land Leasing: Provide technical assistance to municipalities to identify suitable municipally-owned land, including parks, schools, and open land, for food production. Encourage municipalities to partner with community garden and other non-profit urban growing groups to grow on underutilized public lands.</p>		<p>MDAR is currently working with DCR to identify state owned parcels for suitable for agriculture. MDAR has also coordinated a forum for city planners and hosts an annual Urban Ag Conference. Funding is also available to purchase land for agricultural use in urban areas. Given resources, MDAR could certainly take the lead on this. Identification of suitable municipal ag. land could be done using GIS. MDAR would have to dedicate staff resources to work directly with municipalities to implement and support licensing plans.</p>
<p>FASH: Increase outreach and education on food donation opportunities, including the Bill Emerson Good Samaritan Food Donation Act, which provides liability protections for donators.</p>		
<p>Inputs: 1.3.7- Create a communication network so that farmers can connect with volunteers willing to harvest and distribute a crop in an overly abundant year.</p>		

Farming: Action 2.1.4 - Establish a circuit rider program at MDAR with staff who can visit farms in a non-enforcement capacity to explain regulations and programs available through the department that may aid with compliance.		
Farming: Action 2.1.6 - Facilitate improved communication among agencies and stakeholders with a focus on balancing regulations and farm viability.		
Farming: Action 2.2.1 - Review all state programs, regulations, and laws relevant to farming that include a definition of farming or agriculture and, where possible, establish common definitions as the basis for a consistent and understandable set of rules for farmers to follow.		
Farming: Facilitate partnerships between farmers who require labor during different seasons.		
Processing: Assess the suitability of a state-level meat inspection program and implement, if deemed appropriate.		
Tier 4 MDAR Already Performing &/or Done		
Farming: Action 3.1.11 - Encourage farmer participation in USDA's Census of Agriculture and other surveys so that the agricultural sector of the economy is better understood, and so that accurate data is available for formula-based federal grants and programs.		In the past, MDAR has actively encouraged survey completion and can support these efforts in the future.
Processing: Action 3.2.1 - Maintain, update, and expand as necessary the Massachusetts Food Processors Resource Manual, published by MDAR.	Agricultural Markets	MDAR plans to update the MA Food Processors Resource Manual. It was in the top % of web traffic requests in 2015.
Processing: Action 3.2.2 - Support food processing entrepreneurs with technical assistance, financing resources, and business plan support in the startup phase, prioritizing businesses that use Massachusetts agricultural or seafood products as primary ingredients.	Agricultural Markets	This support is currently being offered.
Processing: Action 3.5.2 - Promote year-round use of processing facilities.	Agricultural Markets	MDAR promotes the shared use kitchens in the state to growers looking to add value and food entrepreneurs.
Processing: Action 3.5.3 - Develop opportunities for processing and preserving surplus produce that may otherwise be wasted.		An initiative is currently underway.
Marketing: Action 1.3.6 - Strengthen inter-agency collaboration between MDAR, Massachusetts Office of Business Development, the Massachusetts Small Business Administration, universities, and others to support the development of new value-added market opportunities.	Agency wide/Agricultural Markets	MDAR currently has strong working relationships with these partners.

Marketing: Action 1.3.8 - Promote export development programs and services at the state and federal level to Massachusetts farms and other food businesses, and coordinate development and expansion of these markets.	Agricultural Markets	Through MDAR's relationship with USDA FAS, programs and services are being offered to develop and expand these markets.
Inputs: Action - 3.2.7 - Create demonstration areas or pilot projects where cisterns or other water catchment systems are incorporated into the farm landscape and farming system, particularly in urban environments. Provide technical assistance to size the water harvesting devices and incentives or grants for incorporating water harvesting techniques.		MDAR has funded proposals to invest in water catchment systems through the urban ag grant program.
Land: Action 3.4.3 - Provide more public education on urban food production techniques in community gardens and home gardens, such as growing vegetables, composting, keeping bees, chickens, and other animals.		MDAR's Urban Agriculture Program partners with Local groups to coordinate conferences and a number of workshops. However, this is a great role for Extension.
Farming: Action 2.1.1 - Regulations: As new regulations or revisions to existing ones are considered, regulators should work directly with stakeholders, including providers of technical, educational, and financial assistance, to produce a consensus draft of new regulations prior to their release for review by the general public. Regulators and stakeholders should work together to craft regulations that are based on farming practices that are currently achievable; identify how these practices can be improved over time; and develop processes for making such improvements, such as allowing for extended phase-in periods, and providing education and technical assistance.		It is standard practice for the Department to hold listening sessions prior to the release of regulations. Hearings are a requirement. For example, for the nutrient management regulations, for example, two sessions were initially held.
Land: Action 1.7.1 - Training for Agricultural Commissions and Local Officials: Train Agriculture and Conservation Commissions on actions farmers may take under current law to manage on and off-farm beaver activity to avoid property damage. If needed, consider changes to state law to allow farmers recourse in the event of off-farm beaver activity that is damaging a farm's crops or farmland.		MDAR currently provides funding to support the delivery of Technical Assistance to Agricultural Commissions. Funding to date has been used to support the promotion and development of Ag Commissions. The topics for workshops can be tailored to address the needs identified in this section.
Land: Action 3.3.4 - Provide technical assistance to Agriculture Commissions and, where no Agricultural Commissions exist, municipal land managers and relevant town committees to inventory municipally-owned land and assess its suitability for agriculture.		

Land: Action 3.11.2 - Educate land trusts, Agriculture and Conservation Commissions, and municipal land managers on farm-friendly lease arrangements, and provide technical assistance to these entities to assist with implementation of farm leases.		
Land: Action 2.3.9 - Provide technical assistance to town Community Preservation Committees, Agricultural Commissions and land trusts about how CPA funds can be used to support farmland protection, as well as affordable housing associated with farmland.		
Land: Action 3.6.1 - APR/ Stewardship: Provide adequate funding for APR Program stewardship. Consider a dedicated fund for this purpose, as was proposed in the 2014 Environmental Bond. Include outreach to landowners around farm transfer and succession strategies as part of APR Program stewardship.		APR Stewardship Program received funding through the bond for FY2016
Land: Action 3.12.1 - APR: Establish a task force with MDAR, ALPC and stakeholder representation to recommend revisions to APR policy around housing on future APRs, including ways to keep existing farmhouses with protected parcels.		MDAR recently developed a Dwellings Policy which was adopted by ALPC
Land: Action 1.6.2 - APR: Convene a working group to develop recommendations around housing on APRs.		MDAR recently developed a Dwellings Policy which was adopted by ALPC
Land: Action 2.3.6 - APR: Allow pre-acquisitions of farmland through the ALE and APR program.		Pre- acquisitions are allowed as long as the land trust has a buyer for the land prior to execution of the APR. However federal rules prevent closing of APR with a land trust.
Land: Action 2.3.7 - APR: Eliminate the requirement that land be in active agricultural use for 2 years to be eligible for the APR program.		There are plenty of farms that have a long history of agricultural use that are in line for protection.
Land: Action 3.14.2 - APR: Change MDAR policy to accept donated APRs on farmland that does not meet eligibility requirements for restrictions purchased through the program.		
Land: Action 2.3.2 - APR: Create dedicated APR funding specifically for projects not eligible for NRCS' Agricultural Land Easement (ALE) program.		Possible under existing parameters and can be used to fund parcels not eligible for ALE, however there is no federal reimbursement for projects of this type.

<p>Land: Action 3.9.1 - Farmland Stewardship: Enact a farmland restoration program similar to Connecticut's Department of Agriculture's Farmland Restoration Program, which cost shares with farmers on land management and conservation practices aimed at bringing former farmland back into food production. Consider including in the program projects that would also benefit pollinators and other rare species that thrive on agricultural land.</p>		<p>MDAR is working on a pilot funding program for APRs that are underutilized and newly acquired. Program funding is limited to APRs. The Department has a range of additional programs to assist with environmental, energy and viability issues on farms.</p>
<p>Land: Action 3.8.2 - Stewardship/ Succession Planning: Expand farm succession planning services for farmers. Consider models such as UMass' Your Forest, Your Legacy program, Land for Good and various programs the U.S. Forest Service is doing with forestland owners.</p>		<p>MDAR has integrated succession planning into the Farm Viability Program and is proposing to introduce into its APR Stewardship Program</p>
<p>Land: Stewardship/ Succession Planning: Increase funding and technical assistance for farmland succession planning and matching services through state, federal, and NGO programs.</p>		<p>MDAR has integrated succession planning into the Farm Viability Program and is proposing to introduce into its APR Stewardship Program</p>
<p>Land: Action 3.8.3 - Stewardship/ Succession Planning: Integrate succession planning and farmland matching into MDAR's APR stewardship.</p>		<p>MDAR has integrated succession planning into the Farm Viability Program and is proposing to introduce into its APR Stewardship Program</p>
<p>Land: Action 3.12.3 - Stewardship/ Succession Planning: Provide state support for succession planning and land matching services. Incorporate these services more fully into the state Farm Viability Enhancement Program; consider expanding eligibility for FVEP to non-farming farmland owners seeking farm transfer and succession support.</p>		<p>MDAR has integrated succession planning into the Farm Viability Program and is proposing to introduce into its APR Stewardship Program</p>
<p>Land: Action 3.6.2 - State Land Leasing: Encourage State agencies that manage state-owned land that is currently or was formerly farmed to work with MDAR to develop management plans that allow continued farming of the land, consistent with the purpose for which the land was protected.</p>		<p>MDAR routinely facilitates leases for other state agencies such as DCR and DPH. For some state agencies such as DCR, the use of the land must be compatible with their overall mission statement and goal in protection of the land in the first place. Drinking Water Quality may be the primary goal for land protection for DCR and there may consequently be limitations placed on the types of farming practices allowed.</p>
<p>Land: Action 3.2.9 - State Land Leasing: Where needed, develop model contracts and leases that municipalities can use to lease city-owned land for farming. Train municipal land use managers and planners on these tools.</p>		<p>MDAR has coordinated workshops for city planners and hosts an Urban Ag Conference annually. A workshop for planners took place at the March 2016 Conference.</p>
<p>Inpust: Action 2.3.1 - Health of Pollinators: Increase education and technical assistance to ensure the health of pollinators, including education for beekeepers, pesticide applicators, farmers, landowners, municipalities, and regulators.</p>	<p>Crop and Pest Services</p>	<p>MDAR has developed a pollinator protection plan and will continue to develop the Apiary program as well as maintain and expand the state apiary for outreach. MDAR will continue to work and support UMASS pollinator efforts. MDAR has conducted outreach to many stakeholder groups and will continue to do so.</p>

Inputs: Action 4.3.9 - Implement the recommendations from the Pollinator Stewardship group.	Crop and Pest Services	
Farming: Action 2.2.7 - Establish a committee to review state apiary laws and propose recommendations to support the growth of native pollinators.	Crop and Pest Services, Apiary Program	
Inputs: Action 2.3.1 - Encourage the appropriate use of fertilizers and expand nutrient management technical assistance to provide guidance to farmers on the exact types and amounts of nutrients needed.		
Input: Action 2.2.3/4.3.7 - Impacts of Pesticides: Monitor research findings on the quantity, use, and impacts of pesticides, including neonicotinoids, a systemic pesticide, in order to shape effective public policy interventions.	Crop and Pest Services	MDAR pesticide division regulates all existing pesticide laws and works within the federal pesticide laws as well. Staff keeps up to date on all pesticide issues and evaluates when additional action/review may be needed.
Action 2.1.1 - Regulators and stakeholders should work together to craft regulations: As new regulations or revisions to existing ones are considered, regulators should work directly with stakeholders, including providers of technical, educational, and financial assistance, to produce a consensus draft of new regulations prior to their release for review by the general public. Regulators and stakeholders should work together to craft regulations that are based on farming practices that are currently achievable; identify how these practices can be improved over time; and develop processes for making such improvements, such as allowing for extended phase-in periods, and providing education and technical assistance. Ensure that regulatory processes are transparent; that they operate in a timely and predictable fashion; and that they are appropriate to the size of the farm being regulated.	Crop and Pest Services	Enforcement staff within CPS provides educational outreach materials to the regulated community when regulations or policies change. CPS regulatory programs will continue to develop materials to help ensure compliance.
Farming: Action 2.1.3 - Train and manage regulators to enforce regulations consistently, and to offer technical assistance to farmers so that compliance concerns can be remedied quickly. Ensure that regulators who conduct on-site farm inspections are well-versed in farming issues and are able to understand and address specific concerns found on one farm in a broader context.	Crop and Pest Services	
Tier 5 MDAR Recommend No Action / Not Applicable		

<p>Farming: Action 2.3.2 - Agricultural Commissions: Develop the capacity of agricultural commissions through an organization such as the Massachusetts Association of Agricultural Commissions, with support from MDAR, to play a formal role in local decisions and issues related to agriculture.</p>		<p>Is it the role of Agricultural Commissions to play a formal role in local decisions?...or more of an informational/mediator role.... assist with food/farm/town related events?</p>
<p>Distribution: Action 1.2.1 - Demands for healthy & local food: Fund and publish retail analysis, using community engagement research practices, that demonstrates unmet demands for healthy and local food, and highlight areas of opportunity and market potential for grocers and developers.</p>		
<p>Land: Action 3.13.1 - Integrate and expand existing NGO farm-linking databases, so farmland owners and seekers in all parts of the state, including urban areas, can more readily find each other. Provide state support for these databases. Educate farmland owners and Agricultural Commissions about these databases. Research production methods for rooftop crops, including minimizing environmental contamination.</p>		
<p>Land: Action 3.2.3 - State Land Leasing: Create standard policies around farming state-owned land, allowing normal agricultural practices so long as they are not inconsistent with mission of the controlling agency and there is recognition of any restrictions on the parcel in question.</p>		<p>For land leased through MDAR there are no restrictions placed on farming the land. However, for other state agencies such as DCR, the use of the land must be compatible with their overall mission statement and goal in protection of the land in the first place. Best management practices, perhaps in conjunction with NRCS should be developed for each agricultural parcel and included in the management plan for that parcel. The mission of the controlling agency would direct allowable agricultural uses (e.g. DFW lands are managed for wildlife habitat as a priority and not specifically aimed at agricultural production).</p>
<p>APR: Establish an annual bond cap for APR that allows maximum leveraging of federal farmland protection funds.</p>		<p>Aligning our bond cap with federal funding could lead to a reduced allocation as the federal funding fluctuates and has been diminishing</p>
<p>Land: Action 1.5.1 - APR/ ALPC: Task the Agricultural Lands Preservation Committee with a review of APR regulations to consider whether regulatory or policy changes are needed to promote farm viability and allow for needed farm infrastructure.</p>		<p>APR Regulations are currently under revision. ALPC's role is limited to acquisitions and appeals of decisions of the Department. A statutory change in purpose of the APR program would be needed.</p>
<p>Land: Action 2.3.4 - APR/ ALPC: Task the ALPC with reviewing current APR program policies related to housing, farm infrastructure, the 5% impervious surface limit, and limits on renewable energy production if sited away from productive agricultural lands, and recommending changes as appropriate.</p>		<p>Due to recent statutory changes, ALPC's role is limited to acquisitions and appeals of decisions of the Department.</p>

Land: Action 3.2.5 - State Land Leasing: Change state law or policy to enable state agencies to use leases longer than the current 5-year maximum licenses on state-owned land.		Leases can be, and generally are, extended by 5 years. So typical tenure on a state owned parcel can run to 10 years.
Tier 6 Not Applicable to MDAR		
Inputs: Action 1.3.4 - Increase refrigerated storage capacity at food pantries: Increase refrigerated storage capacity at food pantries through public funding or connections with under-used, existing, nearby facilities to allow food pantries to accept more donations of fresh, perishable foods.		
Distribution: Action 1.2.1 - Demands for Healthy and Local Food: Fund and publish retail analysis, using community engagement research practices, that demonstrates unmet demands for healthy and local food, and highlight areas of opportunity and market potential for grocers and developers.		
Land: Action 3.19.1 -Local Community Gardens: Encourage the creation and maintenance of local community gardens within walking distance of low-income neighborhoods.		
Land: Action 1.2.3 - Department of Revenue (DOR) with creating a guidance document on Chapter 61A: Task the Department of Revenue (DOR) with creating a guidance document on Chapter 61A for local assessors and appraisers		
Land: Action 3.2.4 - State Land Leasing: Open state-owned woodlands to maple syrup production.		
Department of Environmental Protection Commissioner Martin Suuberg Contact: Danah Tench, Deputy General Counsel, Danah.Tench@state.ma.us, 617-574-6870		
Goal/Action Item from Food Plan	Resources needed:	Recommendations/Notes
Tier I Priorities		
Inputs Goal 1		

Recommendation 1.1: Effectively support the Massachusetts Commercial Food Waste Disposal Ban.	Ongoing need to ensure sufficient waste ban staff positions	
Recommendation 1.4: Maximize anaerobic digestion and industrial uses for food waste after higher steps in the EPA's Food Recovery Hierarchy are exhausted.		DEP encourages and promotes anaerobic digestion (AD) at wastewater treatment facilities, stand-alone commercial facilities and at farms. AD is a part of MassDEP, DOER and EEA's energy and sustainability priorities, including implementation of organics waste ban, promoting renewable energy, reduction of GHG by facilities, advocating for net zero energy wastewater treatment facilities (goal is 70 facilities by 2020) and supporting clean energy and use of digestate as fertilizer at farms to reduce costs for energy and fertilizer.
Action 1.4.1: Facilitate reuse of non-hazardous food processing wastewater		MassDEP's Bureau of Water Resources will be proposing revisions to its Groundwater Discharge Permitting regulations (314 CMR 5.00) to allow for exemptions of certain types of agricultural discharges which are regulated under another program by a separate requirement. This may include proposing to allow re-use of certain agricultural wastewaters (including produce rinse water, and wastewaters from milkhouses, milking operations, cheese-making operations) for land-application as plant nutrients or to be used for groundwater recharge via DAR-approved Best Management Practices for on-site disposal. Public Comment will be taken on proposed changes to this regulation.
Inputs Goal 3:		
Action 3.3.10: Consider changes to MassDEP's Groundwater Discharge Permitting regulations that would exempt farms from needing a groundwater discharge permit for farm waste provided they adhere to MDAR and USDA-NRCS best practices.		See 1.4.1 comment above.
Tier II Priorities		
Tier III Priorities (Monitor, engage as resources allow)		
Inputs Goal 1		

Action 1.2.1: Initiate a statewide food waste reduction campaign similar to the United Kingdom’s “Love Food Hate Waste” campaign or California’s “Food is Too Good to Waste” campaign to provide consumer education and highlight the environmental benefits of reducing food waste.		National Ad Council campaign is expected out this spring. We may be able to cost-effectively leverage those campaign resources.
Action 1.2.3: Launch an educational campaign to teach consumers about when a product is still safe to eat, even past the expiration or sell by date.		See 1.2.1 above
Action 1.3.2: Implement a State tax credit for farmers and others who donate surplus food. Currently, there is no State tax credit for food donation and only C-corporations are eligible for the federal enhanced tax credits and most Massachusetts farmers do not meet these criteria.		
Action 1.3.3: Explore and implement financial incentives and service fees to support food donation distributors, many of which rely exclusively on charitable donations to fund their work.		
Action 1.3.4: Increase refrigerated storage capacity at food pantries through public funding or connections with under-used, existing, nearby facilities to allow food pantries to accept more donations of fresh, perishable foods.		MassDEP could play a supporting role in addressing this matter. We believe the next step for this would be to gather more information on needs of food pantries and to what degree the current status of refrigerated storage capacity is a limiting factor.
Action 1.4.3: Develop a market for solids and liquids produced during the anaerobic digestion process.		MassDEP could assist by helping to assess materials and facilitate market alternatives consistent with best management practices to ensure protection of water quality.
Action 1.5.2: Provide technical assistance to increase the prevalence of community scale composting operations, creating high-quality and affordable compost, particularly near farms.		Providing assistance to support small scale compost operations could be helpful especially for supporting programs to serve schools, residents, and small businesses. These compost operations could include municipal, non-profit, agricultural or other small scale commercial operations.
Inputs Goal 3		
Recommendation 3.1: Research existing and anticipated water needs for maintaining and growing the food system. Action 3.1.1: Develop a baseline for how much water is currently being used by the agricultural sector, research likely future needs given projections related to climate change, and target policies based on research findings.		MassDEP's Bureau of Water Resources will assist DAR on this effort as requested by providing information on water withdrawals regulated under the Water Management Act.
Land Goal 3		

Recommendation 3.8: Improve understanding among the agriculture and conservation communities of State and federal wetlands laws and regulations and their impact on farmland.		MassDEP's Bureau of Water Resources will assist DAR on these efforts as requested.
Action 3.8.4: Encourage greater communication and joint training, workshop presentations, and fact sheet development between Massachusetts Association of Agricultural Commissions (MAAC) and Massachusetts Association of Conservation Commissions (MACC).		See comment above.
Land Goal 4		
Recommendation 4.2: Expand private and public markets for carbon credits and water quality credits to provide additional revenue sources for farmers while protecting the environment.		MassDEP's Bureau of Water Resources will assist DAR on water quality credits efforts as requested. See Comment below (Action 4.2.1) for carbon credits comment.
Action 4.2.1: Add carbon sequestration by agriculture to the Massachusetts Annual and Three-Year Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventories.		MassDEP will explore the feasibility of a RGGI offset category that would address carbon sequestration for agricultural and other facilities. Additionally, we are actively researching how carbon sequestration can be tracked to account for land changes across the Commonwealth for agricultural and other types of uses.
Inputs Goal 2		
Action 2.1.3 Explore with MassDEP streamlining the assessment and remediation of contaminated soil on land used for urban farming		MassDEP worked with the City of Boston in the development of their Soil Safety Guidelines for Commercial Urban Farming. The Department will assist in efforts to generalize this material for wider applicability.
Action 2.1.4 Develop a resource guide for urban farming soil remediation that includes best practices, applicable regulations, and funding sources.		MassDEP will participate in the development of a resource guide, particularly in the identification of applicable regulations relevant to the re-use of contaminated property.
Tier IV Already performing or completed		
Inputs Goal 1		
Action 1.1.1: Promote and leverage the MassDEP technical assistance service, Recycling Works, to help food waste generators comply with the waste ban.		MassDEP is currently promoting the RecyclingWorks in Massachusetts program extensively and partnering with other business organizations to promote Recycling Works.
Action 1.1.2: Provide technical assistance to municipalities to introduce their own voluntary programs for residential food waste disposal or food waste from institutions disposal below the one ton/week level.		MassDEP currently provides this assistance through grants to municipalities through the Sustainable Materials Recovery Program.

Action 1.2.2: Align State initiatives with the EPA's and USDA's national goal to reduce food waste by 50 percent by 2030.		Comparable state goals have been established.
Action 1.2.4: Clarify expiration or sell by dates, and reduce the number of foods that require a date label, using information from Harvard Law School's Food Law and Policy Clinic.		MassDEP completed this task and is sharing this information externally.
Action 1.2.5: Support increased utilization of food waste tracking/auditing systems at large generators of food waste such as institutions and grocery stores, to improve management practices and better understand the amount of food waste generated and diverted.		MassDEP currently encourages tracking food waste through the RecyclingWorks program. There may be specific opportunities to implement food waste tracking at state facilities with large food service operations, such as colleges, universities, and correctional facilities.
Action 1.2.6: Encourage and support the development of innovative technology to efficiently separate food from packaging so more food can be composted or turned into energy.		This is an ongoing effort by MassDEP through the Recycling Business Development Grants. There may be other opportunities to leverage funding through the Massachusetts Clean Energy Center.
Action 1.3.1: Increase outreach and education on food donation opportunities, including the Bill Emerson Good Samaritan Food Donation Act, which provides liability protections for donors.		MassDEP will continue to partner with DPH and local health officials on this matter.
Action 1.3.5: Increase participation in existing education and training around the handling of fresh food for those donating, distributing, and serving the food. Best management practices are being developed through a collaborative effort of the EPA, Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH), and MassDEP, with support from Harvard Law School's Food Law and Policy Clinic and the Center for Ecological Technology (CET).		These best management practices (BMPs) have been completed. We will continue to share and promote them.
Action 1.3.5: Increase participation in existing education and training around the handling of fresh food for those donating, distributing, and serving the food. Best management practices are being developed through a collaborative effort of the EPA, Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH), and MassDEP, with support from Harvard Law School's Food Law and Policy Clinic and the Center for Ecological Technology (CET).		These BMPs have been completed. We will continue to share and promote them.

Massachusetts Department of Public Health
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Goal/Action Item from Food Plan	Bureau	Notes
<i>Tier I Priorities</i>		

Action 7.1.3: Continue to support and expand Mass in Motion and similar municipal programs like food policy councils, and leverage existing Mass in Motion initiatives toward a “Health in All Policies” model that integrates health-related considerations into decision-making and planning throughout municipal and State agencies.	Community Health and Prevention	MDPH’s Mass in Motion initiative is a priority of the Division of Prevention and Wellness - MDPH has committed staff and resources to support Mass in Motion since 2009. The Division of Prevention and Wellness works with other state agencies such as MassDOT and MDAR to collaborate on initiatives that promote a better built environment for pedestrians and cyclists and increased food access. Similarly, Mass in Motion works with funded communities to collaborate with local stakeholders such as planning departments, departments of public works, zoning commissions, open space and recreation departments, economic development departments, councils on aging and others to integrate health into municipal decision-making.
Action 2.1.1: Require the Executive Office of Health and Human Services’ Public Health Council to adopt the most current FDA Food Code, to bring the State up to date with the most recent science regarding food safety.	Environmental Health	This is being addressed in the proposed 2016 revisions to the State Sanitary Code, Chapter X-- Minimum Sanitation Standards for Food Establishments, 105 CMR 590
Action 1.1.4: Develop streamlined regulatory processes for multi-use facilities, such as shared kitchens and food trucks.	Environmental Health	This is being addressed in the proposed 2016 revisions to the State Sanitary Code, Chapter X-- Minimum Sanitation Standards for Food Establishments, 105 CMR 590
Action 1.1.5: Encourage the use of existing small production kitchens such as in Grange halls, churches and schools, where foods could be manufactured or developed in compliance with the State food code.	Environmental Health	This is being addressed in the proposed 2016 revisions to the State Sanitary Code, Chapter X-- Minimum Sanitation Standards for Food Establishments, 105 CMR 590
Action 2.1.2: Establish a process by which the State will stay current with FDA Food Code.	Environmental Health	The DPH Food Protection Program will attend the Conference of Food Protection in 2016 to stay current with changes proposed to U.S.Food and Drug Administration Food Code
<i>Tier II Priorities (Can be accomplished with existing resources)</i>		
Action 2.3.8: Encourage communities to adopt the CPA, which provides funding streams for open space protection (including agricultural land) and affordable housing, as well as recreation and historic preservation.	Community Health and Prevention	Mass in Motion is considering enhanced technical assistance that would include encouraging communities to adopt the CPA
Action 1.5.12: Add guidance on food system planning for municipal planning documents, including master plans, open space and recreation plans, community needs assessments, hazard mitigation plans, and others.	Community Health and Prevention	Mass in Motion is considering enhanced technical assistance that would include model language for public planning documents.
Action 1.2.18: Seek opportunities to integrate the implementation efforts of this plan with existing activities by municipal governments and food policy councils, regional planning agencies, and economic development organizations.	Community Health and Prevention	The Division of Prevention and Wellness is considering enhanced technical assistance and guidance to locally funded communities that are aligned with several recommended actions in the Food Plan.
Action 1.5.1: Support the creation of regional, municipal, and neighborhood food plans.	Community Health and Prevention	Mass in Motion is considering enhanced technical assistance that would include guidance and best practices on developing municipal and neighborhood food plans.

Action 1.5.2: Promote best practices and inclusionary processes in food planning. Stay abreast of food planning theory and practice through organizations like the American Planning Association and its Food Interest Group.	Community Health and Prevention	Best practices and community engagement with a focus on vulnerable populations would be part of the enhanced technical assistance being considered by Mass in Motion.
Action 1.2.1: Increase ongoing training of local and state regulators in 21st century agricultural and food issues. Increase training of farmers, agriculture commissions, and others in public health and food safety.	Environmental Health	The Food Protection Program (FPP) will work with the Local Public Health Training Institute to modify and update the Public Health Inspector Training (PHIT) Food Certificate training for 2017 in order to incorporate the revisions to 105 CMR 590, which will include the 2013 FDA Food Code
Action 1.3.2: Ensure that food processors are offered support when they seek support related to regulations. Provide resources, not penalties, as first line of action.	Environmental Health	FPP inspectional staff provide one-on-one support and technical assistance during routine inspections and investigations
Action 1.4.3: Support communication between regulators, and develop forums where they do not exist.	Environmental Health	DPH participates in various stakeholder outreach forums, including the Food Establishment Advisory Council (FEAC). This body is made up of representatives from academia, local and state regulatory agencies, the Mass Restaurant Association and other industry representatives. FEAC meetings are held three times a year to advise the FPP Director on matters of policy and the issuance of rules and regulations. The Department will participate in the facilitated working group proposed to the food policy council between regulators and industry to improve education and communication and to resolve issues of mutual concern.
Action 2.1.3: Promulgate new information on FDA Food Code updates to local boards of health	Environmental Health	Updated policies and regulations are posted on the DPH website for review. In addition, FPP will develop training for local boards of health and present the materia at local health professional organization conferences and also develop training to be provided in classroom and online formats.
Action 2.5.2: Promote regional approaches to developing and enforcing food safety regulations.	Environmental Health/Office of Local and Regional Health	The Department supports local efforts to regionalize in order to enhance local capacity to perform public health responsibilities, including those related to food safety.
Action 5.2.2: Create clear expectations and interpretation of the food code, and a mandatory public process for issuing DPH and local board of health regulations so that all stakeholders are involved in the process of crafting and reviewing proposed regulations prior to implementation.	Environmental Health	Updated policies and regulations are posted on the DPH website for review. In addition, FPP will develop training for local boards of health and present the materia at local health professional organization conferences and also develop training to be provided in classroom and online formats.
Action 5.4.2: Require training for all boards of health agents on the Massachusetts Food Code, food safety, best practices, and FSMA, conducted by DPH, Massachusetts Health Officers Association, and the Massachusetts Association of Health Boards.	Environmental Health	This is being addressed in the proposed 2016 revisions to the State Sanitary Code, Chapter X-- Minimum Sanitation Standards for Food Establishments, 105 CMR 590

Tier III Priorities (Monitor, engage as resources allow)		
Action 1.1.8: Review state and local food processing regulations in other states to inform regulation reform in Massachusetts and in New England.	Environmental Health	Information about legislation and regulations in other states is shared by MA participation in the National Association of Food and Drug Officials
Action 2.3.1: Maintain consolidated information on food safety compliance in an accessible print and online format, coordinated and updated by the Massachusetts DPH's Food Protection Program.	Environmental Health	Work-aids and information about regulations and policies are developed and posted on the DPH website under the Food Protection Program.
Action 2.4.1: Develop guidelines for complex, multi-functional kitchen infrastructure development. Make these guidelines available online and in print, and ensure they are coordinated and updated by one central agency.	Environmental Health	This is being addressed in the proposed 2016 revisions to the State Sanitary Code, Chapter X-- Minimum Sanitation Standards for Food Establishments, 105 CMR 590
Action 2.5.1: Ensure continued support and funding for the Massachusetts Public Health Inspector Training that trains local regulators to uniformly enforce food regulations, and require that local regulators participate.	Environmental Health/Office of Local and Regional Health	The Food Protection Program (FPP) will work with the Local Public Health Training Institute to modify and update the Public Health Inspector Training (PHIT) Food Certificate training for 2017 in order to incorporate the revisions to 105 CMR 590, which will include the 2013 FDA Food Code
Action 5.2.1: Review and revise, with input from DPH, producers, and retailers, existing model policies that can be adopted by boards of health regarding specific or regional food safety concerns, and create new ones where needed there are gaps.	Environmental Health	Work-aids and information about regulations and policies are developed and posted on the DPH website under the Food Protection Program. Additional materials are available on the Massachusetts Partnership for Food Safety Education. DPH will review its website to link to additional training opportunities.
Action 5.3.2: Strengthen relationships between local boards of health, DPH, buy local organizations, and other organizations to share information and improve dialogue.	Environmental Health	DPH participates in the Food Establishment Advisory Council (FEAC). This body is made up of representatives from academia, local and state regulatory agencies, the Mass Restaurant Association and other industry representatives. FEAC meetings are held three times a year to advise the FPP Director on matters of policy and the issuance of rules and regulations. The Department will review FEAC membership and invite appropriate organizations to join the council.
Action 5.4.1: Create instructional resources for producers on the food safety protocols along the value chain, especially as FSMA is implemented.	Environmental Health	Instructional videos are available through the Massachusetts Partnership for Food Safety Education website
Action 6.1.1: Provide support to the Massachusetts Partnership for Food Safety Education to improve consumer food safety education programs. Focus on product labeling, freshness dating, and related information.	Environmental Health	FPP supports the Massachusetts Partnership for Food Safety Education.
Action 6.1.2: Create a program of public education and point-of-sale signage about safe handling of food during and after purchase.	Environmental Health	The Food Protection Program will explore signage initiatives as part of its public education outreach.

Action 1.2.2: Explore and implement options for credentialing of the local public health workforce, accreditation of local health departments, and regionalization of local public health services and regulations, in order to increase capacity and expertise of local regulators.	Office of Local and Regional Health	DPH works closely with and will continue to support local health professional organizations and the Coalition for Local Public Health to promote and support their efforts to enhance capacity at the local level.
<i>Tier IV Already performing or completed</i>		
Action 3.4.1: The Division of Prevention and Wellness currently Provides technical assistance to encourage municipalities to support the use of land and unused infrastructure for urban agriculture.	Community Health and Prevention	The Division is considering developing model zoning bylaws and ordinances to support land use and urban agriculture.
Recommendation 1.3: Increase food donations and support stakeholders addressing food insecurity.	Community Health and Prevention	Mass in Motion works with locally funded communities to increase the amount of healthy foods offered at food pantries by instituting nutrition guidelines and encouraging donation of healthy foods.
Action 1.3.1: Provide public support to farmers markets to market local foods and expand the number of Massachusetts residents consuming local food.	Community Health and Prevention	Mass in Motion works with locally funded communities to establish new farmers markets and to promote existing farmers markets.
Action 1.4.4: Continue to support health care providers and regulators to incentivize purchases of healthy, Massachusetts-produced foods, through programs such as vegetable prescriptions and other healthy food incentive programs.	Community Health and Prevention	Mass in Motion works with locally funded communities to establish SNAP and WIC 'matching programs' that increase purchase power of EBT users at farmers markets.
Action 5.1.3: Encourage and support nonprofit hospitals in supporting and partnering with community-based programs that promote healthy food access and nutrition education.	Community Health and Prevention	The Division of Prevention and Wellness is working with locally funded communities and technical assistance provider Health Care Without Harm to increase support for community-based food access programs via community benefit programs.
Action 7.4.3: Evaluate prior "Healthy Bodega" and "Healthy Corner Store" programs. Produce recommendations, and expand and improve implementation.	Community Health and Prevention	Mass in Motion works with locally funded communities to increase access to healthy food through healthier corner stores. Added as a community-based strategy in 2012, MDPH has developed healthy market program guidance which has evolved over time based on successes and lessons learned via local implementation. In 2014, the Division of Prevention and Wellness convened a cross-bureau working group to develop program guidance for a healthy market program that includes alcohol and tobacco criteria in addition to healthy foods. This enhanced healthy market program is currently being piloted in several Mass in Motion communities.

Action 7.4.4: Increase the availability and affordability of CSA memberships among low-income residents through such innovative measures as the statewide Healthy Incentives Program, which will allow monthly CSA share payments from SNAP debit cards. Increase options for CSA pickup locations, such as workplaces, community centers, and churches that are more convenient to those without cars or limited transportation options.	Community Health and Prevention	Mass in Motion is currently supporting MDAR's healthy incentives program (Food Insecurity Nutrition Incentive program) by participating in MDAR's implementation leadership team and will in the future support roll out of the program via locally funded communities. In addition, Mass in Motion works with locally funded programs to offer subsidized CSA shares on-site at housing developments, health centers, senior centers and other locations.
Action 1.1.2: Develop a publicly-available inventory of food processing-related regulations that identifies relevant regulations and codes by business types. This could be in the form of a searchable digital interface.	Environmental Health	An unofficial version of the all FPP regulations is available for review at the Department of Public Health website. Official copies of regulations are available from the Secretary of State.
Action 3.5.1: Inventory food processing facilities in Massachusetts, and use the inventory to create a map that identifies facility age, condition, state of use, state of business growth, available capacity, and need for upgrades, and need for new facilities.	Environmental Health	Locations of Food processors and Distributors are available for public review on the BEH Environmental Public Health Tracking portal
Action 3.5.3: Develop opportunities for processing and preserving surplus produce that may otherwise be wasted.	Environmental Health	This is being addressed in the proposed 2016 revisions to the State Sanitary Code, Chapter X-- Minimum Sanitation Standards for Food Establishments, 105 CMR 590
Action 6.2.1: Educate retail food sellers, restaurant workers and managers, farmers market operators, and others in food distribution about food donations that can be made to food banks, pantries, and meal programs without liability. Focus on product labeling, freshness dating, and related information.	Environmental Health	This is being addressed in the proposed 2016 revisions to the State Sanitary Code, Chapter X-- Minimum Sanitation Standards for Food Establishments, 105 CMR 590
Action 7.4.1: Support mobile farmers markets and mobile grocery markets through local food policy councils, anchor institutions, nonprofits, and agency resources. Encourage partnerships with local transit authorities, farms, distributors, farmers markets, and other transportation providers.	Environmental Health	This is being addressed in the proposed 2016 revisions to the State Sanitary Code, Chapter X-- Minimum Sanitation Standards for Food Establishments, 105 CMR 590
Action 1.3.1: Review and clarify the language of Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) regulations, which are currently vague.	Environmental Health	The Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) for Food regulations were updated, clarified and made consistent in revisions to 105 CMR 500.000 These are currently awaiting approval to implement.
Action 1.1.6: Review and revise regulations relative to meat and poultry processing.	Environmental Health	Meat and poultry processing regulations were updated in the revisions to the 105 CMR 500.000, Good Manufacturing Practices for Food

Department of Transitional Assistance
Commissioner Jeff McCue

Contact: Frank Martinez Nocito, Assistant Director, SNAP Nutrition Education, Frank.MartinezNocito@state.ma.us, 413.772.3411

Goal/Action: Food Access, Security, & Health (FASH) Chapter	Resources needed	Notes
Tier I Priorities		
FASH Recommendation 2.1.1 and Actions 2.1.1 - 2.1.4	Executive Office of Elder Affairs, FNS	Working with Western, Central and Eastern MA SNAP Coalitions. Increased hiring of new staff (2.1.2). Expanded the Baystate CAP; conducted Baystate CAP sweep (2.1.4). Submitting ESAP waiver with FNS. MOU with Executive Office of Elder Affairs.
FASH Recommendation 2.2, Action 2.2.1, 2.3.3, 2.3.4	MassHealth	Considering additional four screening questions in MassHealth application/SNAP GAP. Increasing community partner outreach and providing larger role in waiver process (2.3.3 and 2.3.4). Capital investment into phone system/IVR; new mobile SNAP App. in development.
FASH Recommendation 4.3 Action 4.3.1	DESE	DESE enhanced data sharing; addressing direct certification issues.
FASH Recommendation 1.1, Action 1.2.1	DOL	Workforce Investment Opportunity Act (WIOA)- increased resources, establishes a new accountability criteria. Role of ABAWD Work Program and SNAP Employment and Training. Food delivery workforce, job promotion for SNAP clients.
FASH Recommendation 3.1, Action 3.3.1 and 3.1.2	MDAR, DPH	FINI implementation underway, on schedule for 4/1/17 statewide roll out. FINI Trust private sector engagement strategies ongoing. Continue to support efforts to reduce farm producer costs, bringing price points to acceptable levels for low income persons, improving retailer environment.
Tier II Priorities		
FASH Recommendation 7.1 Action 7.1.2	Executive Office of Elder Affairs, FNS	MOU with Executive Office of Elder Affairs.
FASH Recommendation 5.1 Action 5.1.1 and 5.1.5		Support of state institutional purchasing.
FASH Recommendation 1.1, Action 1.1.1		Maintaining the MA Earned Income Credit (EITC).
Tier IV Already performing or completed		
FASH Recommendation 4.1 Action 4.1.1 (also 8.2.3)		Support of SNAP Nutrition Education Providers.
FASH Recommendation 4.1 Action 4.1.1 (also 8.2.3)		Support of SNAP Nutrition Education Providers.

EOHED

Secretary Jay Ash, Executive Office of Housing and Economic Development

Contact: Helena Fruscio, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Innovation,
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and Technology

Coordinate with the Seaport Council on opportunities related to the fishing and marine industries.		
Ensure food incubators are aware of the investment opportunities, including TDI Co-Work and Innovation Infrastructure Fund.		
Coordinate with the Rural Agenda initiative, especially around farming related activities.		
Better communicate opportunities for food processors around access to capital and incentives, though MassDevelopment and MOBD.		
Coordinate with regulatory ombudsman on streamlining processes and reducing barriers.		

Division of Marine Fisheries (currently not a FPC member)

Commissioner George Peterson
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(617) 626-1524

Goal/Action Item from Food Plan	Resources	Notes
Tier I Priorities		
Action 1.2.1: Develop more resources for technical assistance, such as cooperative extension, for the aquaculture industry.		
Action 2.1.1: Ensure that fishermen’s access to commercial fisheries is maintained and improved.		
Action 2.1.2: Support new and established retail and wholesale infrastructure through low interest business loans or grants and other programs.	funding	

Action 2.1.7: Support groundfish fishing fleets that range in size and gear type.		
Action 2.2.1: Fund, develop, and implement educational curriculum and events to increase consumer awareness of the benefits of eating fresh, local seafood, as well as precautions to take to ensure that fish eaten comes from unpolluted waters, and that exposure to heavy metals in fish is minimized. Revisit past New England Seafood Series programming by UMass Extension Nutrition Education Program, and consider rededicating funding.	partnerships	
Action 2.2.2: Develop a toolkit for seafood marketers to easily educate consumers.		
Action 3.1.1: Promote locally caught fish species through established seafood outlets and distribution channels such as conventional grocery, retail, and fish markets.		
Tier II Priorities		
Action 1.1.3: Investigate reallocating state fishing quotas based on projected changes in fish distribution. The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission's (ASMFC) Management and Science Committee and other entities' research, monitoring, and advocacy efforts toward this action item should be supported.		
Action 2.3.1: Perform a review of regulations related to the seafood supply chain, and recommend reformation of those that are overly-restrictive or outdated.		
Action 2.3.4: Create markets for diverse fish and shellfish species to encourage the harvesting of a range of fish and shellfish species to ensure stable livelihoods and ecological resiliency.		
Action 2.3.5: Expand the markets for a variety of locally-abundant fish species (i.e. Mackerel and Whiting), and lesser known species (i.e. Arcadian redfish, dogfish, and scup) and invasive species (i.e. green crab which is threatening shellfish habitat).		

Action 2.3.7: Determine feasibility and develop seafood innovation districts that include elements such as test kitchens, laboratories for developing value-added products and innovative technologies to recover and utilize waste, and start-up accelerators to develop new businesses. Include support systems such as active collaboration with food policy councils, grant writing, marketing studies, business planning, and early-stage financing.	funding, partnerships	
Action 3.1.6: Distribute local seafood at retail locations that accept Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) purchases.		Involve other agencies
Action 3.1.7: Distribute fresh, whole fish to markets, with a focus on customers' cultural preferences. This is a marketing strategy that reduces processing costs and delivers cost-savings to customers.		
Action 3.1.8: Encourage the sale and consumption of lower-cost, underutilized species, like whiting, Arcadian redfish, dogfish, and scup in all markets.		
Action 4.1.1: Create a seat for the MFPC Advisory Committee for a representative of the fishing industry.		
Action 4.1.4: Build collaborative networks comprised of a range of State agencies including the DMF, MDAR, MassDEP, DPH, and the Massachusetts Office of Business Development to develop and implement strategies that grow the local seafood system.	partnerships	
Action 4.1.5: Build collaborative networks comprised of a range of businesses, organizations, and institutions with interest and stake in development of the local seafood system.	partnerships	
Tier III Priorities		
Action 1.1.1: Fund existing and new programs that support marine ecosystem protection and restoration, such as the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) focus on wetland protection and carbon sequestration, efforts by Massachusetts towns and their partners on eelgrass and oyster reef restoration projects, and Atlantic Coastal Fish Habitat Partnership's restoration projects.	funding	
Action 1.2.5: Study the ecological benefits of no-take oyster reserves.		

Action 1.2.6: Pilot the use of oysters, clams, and natural system restoration techniques to remove nitrogen and phosphorous from coastal waters. Such interventions can serve as alternatives to sewer systems that function to remove nutrients from wastewater plumes.		
Action 1.2.7: Develop oyster, clam, and mussel beds as a method of enhancing marine ecosystems.		
Action 1.2.8: Fund oyster, clam, mussel, and other shellfish seed hatcheries.		
Action 2.3.10: Support growth of local businesses that aid in developing the local seafood supply chain. These could be businesses providing equipment, services, or other innovations that advance local seafood distribution.	partnerships	
Action 2.4.1: Expand and fund mechanisms for source-tracking for locally landed fish and shellfish, so that all fisheries in Massachusetts are tracking and recording details about their catches, and fisheries data is improved. Source tracking technology developed by the seafood distributor Red's Best could be considered as a model.	partnerships	
Action 4.1.7: Create and maintain a database to enable coordination and collaboration between the multitude of organizations and institutions with ties to local commercial fishing.	partnerships	
Action 4.1.8: Conduct an assessment of the local seafood system to identify opportunities and gaps in the industry. Share data and findings with local seafood industry stakeholders.	funding, partnerships	
Action 5.1.2: Conduct a comprehensive seafood system plan, similar to the Massachusetts Food System Plan, that looks at all aspects of the seafood supply chain in detail, and develops goals and recommendations for the local seafood industry.	funding, partnerships	
Action 5.1.3: Review the 1995 'Aquaculture White Paper and Strategic Plan' and subsequent revisions, and conduct new research to identify current challenges and		
Action 5.1.4: Research land-based aquaculture to identify opportunities and strategies for innovation and enterprise development.		
Action 5.1.5: Study climate conditions including sea level rise, severe storms, and ocean acidification, and assess the impact of these on the marine ecosystems, estuaries, and fisheries.	partnerships	national issue

Tier IV Already performing or completed

Action 1.1.2: Improve data collection methods, systems, and technology for 'fishery dependent' and 'fishery independent' fish stocks. NOAA's Northeast Federal Fishery Dependent Data Visioning project and the Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program are leads in fishery dependent data collection.		already being worked on at DMF
Action 1.2.2: Provide funding to improve shellfish management and stock assessments.		
Action 1.2.3: Ensure continued and expanded permitting for shellfish habitat projects.		
Action 2.1.3: Implement a fisheries training curriculum that educates the fisheries labor force in the local seafood supply chain, and develops skills of small operators and processors, including in value chain education, sustainable high-tech gear, and alternative and low-energy boat design.		
Action 2.3.2: Fund and ensure longevity of the DMF Seafood Marketing Program, steering committee, and coordinator position.		already being worked on at DMF
Action 2.3.3: Where permitted for different species, open and expand markets for local seafood including: grocery stores; community supported fisheries programs; farmers markets; public markets; institutional distribution including to universities, colleges, hospitals, prisons, public schools; and wholesale distribution.		already being worked on at DMF
Action 2.3.8: Support seafood product development and innovation in culinary schools, and universities, colleges, and primary schools that operate culinary programs.		
Action 3.1.2: Support direct to consumer models for seafood sales, such as community supported fishery (CSF) programs. Support organizations that spur CSF development through education and technical assistance.	regulatory (DPH & DMF)	another organization's priority
Action 3.1.3: Make local seafood eligible for purchase with consumer incentives programs, like Boston Bounty Bucks.	partnerships	another organization's priority
Action 3.1.4: Develop local seafood products for public schools, hospitals, prisons, and universities and increase distribution.		another organization's priority
Action 3.1.5: Distribute sustainably-caught, local seafood to hunger relief organizations.	partnerships	another organization's priority

Action 3.1.9: Promote safe recreational angling – including clamming, lobstering, and spear fishing – that enables individuals to fish for their own seafood. Facilitate this by developing urban access to fishing piers, and removing language barriers for permits.		already being worked on at DMF plus another organization's priority
Action 4.1.3: Support and collaborate with the DMF’s shellfish advisory panel to establish an interagency committee to review and update shellfish regulations and policies. The committee should also be informed by the Interstate Shellfish Sanitation Conference	partnerships	already being worked on at DMF
Action 5.1.1: Assess ongoing research in the fishing and aquaculture industries, and develop a research agenda that complements and builds on ongoing studies	staff, partnerships	
Action 5.1.6: Increase funding for cooperative research that improves the fishing industry’s ability to adapt to changes in fish populations and ensure stock resiliency.		NMFS is working on this at a national level
Tier V Recommend no Action / not Applicable		
Action 1.2.4: Develop solutions to address property owners’ disputes regarding adjacent shellfish habitat projects		
Action 2.1.4: Provide fish and shellfish industry workforce with living wages and full-time work, through such measures as diversifying and expanding markets or developing processing cooperatives. Markets for finfish and shellfish are different. As permitted for the different species, direct to consumer markets and wholesale markets should be expanded.		
Action 2.1.5: Ensure safe work environments and training and advancement opportunities for seafood processing workforce.		
Action 2.1.6: Support continuing leasing of shellfish aquaculture under municipal control for small, local harvesters and aquaculturists.		
Action 2.4.2: Incentivize municipalities to encourage shellfish restoration and harvesting and sustainable aquaculture enterprise.		
Action 2.4.3: Upgrade and expand current aggregation methods, processing, facilities, and equipment, based on research and in the context of expanding the local seafood industry and building equity and sustainability into the value chain.		

UMASS Amherst Foodscience Department

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Goal/Action Item from Food Plan	Resources	Notes
<i>Tier I Priorities</i>		
<p>1) UMass Food Science: Food Production & Processing will be supported in producing safe food.</p>	<p>Many extension programs exist currently that can help support these needs. However, the gap is 'mapping out these efforts" and identify opportunities of improvement to better satisfy the needs to further support a stronger food system. Funds may be necessary to further enhance these programs to increase maximum outreach efforts to stakeholders.</p>	<p>Three current programs may help to support this initiative: 1) extension programming to support value added production (partners: CDC, Commonwealth Kitchen, MDAR and UMass), 2) Produce Safety Education: partnership MDAR & UMass currently being "revamped" 3) UMass is a PI for the USDA NIFA Northeast Center to Establish Regional Centers for Food Safety Training, Outreach and Technical Assistance. Focus here will include Production & Processing.</p>
<p>2) Resource Development: Convene a discussion between key leaders from University, state government, USDA, philanthropic interests and stakeholders to help CAFE/Extension begin an exploratory process to develop a more robust and sustainable funding system for Extension and applied research services by UMass Amherst.</p>	<p>Input on the conceptual framework of such a process is needed.</p>	
<p>3) Center for Urban Sustainability at Waltham: Encourage the full funding of the bond authorization by the Governor's office.</p>	<p>The authorization in the 2014 Environmental Bond was for \$20M to develop this new Center on a UMass site in Waltham. Release of the full amount would enable to project to be initiated in the near future.</p>	

FASH, Actions 2.1.1 - 2.2.2 Working to restore benefits to SNAP enrollees, instituting common application, closing the "SNAP Gap"	CDD: Chronic Disease Prevention & Control Division	MHL & CDD/CIB staff participate in the Eastern MA SNAP Coalition, with advocacy support from IGR
FASH, Action 3.1.1 Leverage and maximize the FINI grant award to increase use of SNAP and complementary benefit programs at farmers markets, farm stands, mobile markets, and for community supported agriculture (CSA) programs. Identify, support, and implement methods to sustain FINI-related healthy food purchasing incentive initiatives.	CIB: Community Initiatives Bureau	CDD/CIB staff working closely with COB-OFI, DTA, and MDAR to plan for the implementation of FINI and advocate for sustainable incentives for healthy foods; advocacy support from IGR for S69, An act establishing the healthy incentives program which would enhance benefits on purchased fruits and vegetables for SNAP recipients.
FASH, Action 3.1.5 Conduct outreach to promote the success and benefit of the FMNP.	COB-OFI: City of Boston-Office of Food Initiatives	CDD/CIB & HHD/CIB - promote Boston Bounty Bucks and other healthy food incentives to residents (HHD/CIB with a focus on BHA resident through REACH PHH, CDD/CIB citywide promotion through LGHB)
FASH, Recommendations 4.1 (Related Actions*) Increase nutrition education, curriculum, and trainings for children and adolescents.	HBHC: Healthy Baby/Healthy Child	CDD/CIB collaborates with the Harvard School of Public Health on the Out of School Nutrition and Physical Activity Initiative (OSNAP) which works with 21 after school programs in Boston to improve healthy eating and physical activity policies
FASH, Recommendation 4.1 (Related Actions*) Increase nutrition education, curriculum, and trainings for children and adolescents.	HHD: Healthy Homes Division	CDD/CIB's Boston Healthy Childcare Initiative has reached over 400 programs and provides training for family based child care centers and a learning collaborative for center based child care centers to assist them in developing action plans and implementing policy changes to improve healthy eating - as well as improve breast feeding support and opportunities for physical activity
FASH, Action 4.3.4 Support expanded use of USDA's Child and Adult Care Food Program, including efforts to increase funding and participation and reduce and streamline paperwork.	IGR: Intergovernmental Relations	CDD/CIB's Boston Healthy Childcare Initiative builds provider knowledge about regulations and reimbursement procedures related to participation in CACFP
FASH, Action 5.2.1 Provide SNAP application assistance at the time of enrollment in public health insurance programs, as well as providing easy-to-use directories and information about local DTA offices and services, nutrition trainings, and WIC application assistance.	MHL: Mayor's Health Line	MHL/CIB is working to provide SNAP application assistance to clients enrolling in health insurance
FASH, Action 8.1.1 Identify ways to further utilize and leverage existing food-health awareness campaigns and initiatives that reinforce the food-health connection, including USDA's MyPlate	LGHB: Let's Get Healthy Boston! (CDC-funded project)	CDD/CIB has a variety of public awareness campaigns related to consumer choice of food and beverage including the ReThink Your Drink and Swap the Salt campaigns
FASH, Action 8.2.2 Support and promote efforts by food retailers, medical service providers, school staff and volunteers, and other entities to offer "healthy diets on a budget" information and classes, especially at locations where complementary programming that engages adults, youth, and children are already planned	REACH PHH: Racial & Ethnic Approaches to Community Health - Partners in Health & Housing (CDC-funded project)	HHD/CIB/CIB - Through the CDC-funded REACH PHH project, BPHC is supporting Southern Jamaica Plain Health Center to train youth on community survey techniques to determine how local residents are making healthy affordable meals available to their families and then to complete a video that will showcase these techniques

FASH, Recommendation 8.3 (Related Actions* -) Build more food system career pathways to advance knowledge about the direct effects of nutrition and the benefits of local food		The Health Equity and Food Justice curriculum at the Boston Area Health Education Center (in the division of Child and Adolescent Health at BPHC) educates high school youth on the role of food access as a determinant of health as well as how to pursue careers in the field of nutrition. CAHD/CAFH
FASH, Action 8.4.2 Monitor the implementation of FDA labeling requirements for product and calorie information on restaurant menus and vending machines. Study implications for Massachusetts consumers, businesses, and food providers.		IGR & CDD/CIB collaborated to offer comments on the FDA labeling regulations and continue to monitor implementation
Tier II Priorities (Actively seeking out resources to engage)		
FASH, Recommendation 4.1 (Related Actions*)- Increase nutrition education, curriculum, and trainings for children and adolescents		CDD/CIB recently sought support from Astra Zeneca Foundation for a nutrition education to support parents of young children who will in turn, share their learnings with their children.
FASH, Action 4.3.2: Support the expansion of complementary programs, such as Project Bread's Chefs in Schools, that support schools in creating appealing, healthy, and local school lunch menus.		Full-time chef to assist with BPS lunch/breakfast menu reformulation included as part of the CDD/CIB Sodium Reduction in Communities Grant, submitted in March 2016
FASH, Action 4.3.5 - Maximize use of USDA's Summer Food Program and support efforts that promote and expand the program where there is demonstrated need, underuse, and where there are opportunities to co-locate Summer Food Programs.		Improvements to the BPS summer meals program included in the proposed work plan for the CDD/CIB Sodium Reduction in Communities Grant, submitted in March 2016 . The MA Farm to School project has been working to co-locate summer meal sites at farmers markets.
FASH, Action 5.1.1 - Incorporate food insecurity screenings and referrals to food assistance resources into regular practice for visits to the doctor's office or clinic. Encourage health care institutions to partner with agencies that can provide SNAP enrollment assistance to patients, and encourage utilization of benefit enrollment centers to provide referrals for patients in need of additional services.		CDD & HHD/CIB are collaboratively thinking about how the Hunger Vital Sign (the two-question food insecurity screener developed by Children's Health Watch) might be operationalized in healthcare, childcare, Mayor's Health Line interactions, and other settings
FASH, Action 7.4.1 - Support mobile farmers markets and mobile grocery markets through local food policy councils, anchor institutions, nonprofits, and agency resources. Encourage partnerships with local transit authorities, farms, distributors, farmers markets, and other transportation providers.		Exploring a variety of partnerships with Fresh Truck, Fair Foods, and others to create greater access to healthy food at the neighborhood level.
Tier III Priorities (Monitor, engage as resources allow)		

FASH, Action 1.2.1 Support the adoption of a living wage standard for Massachusetts workers, with exceptions for time-limited youth training on production farms and related retail operations.		IGR supports strategies to increase access to equitable employment opportunities, such as an increased minimum wage for airport workers and big box retail workers
FASH, Action 3.1.3 Identify method for expanding healthy food purchasing incentives to all SNAP retailers statewide including grocery stores, corner stores, and bodegas.		As an extension of CDD/CIB's past corner store initiative "Healthy on the Block", expanding healthy food incentives to a broad range of SNAP retailers might be a path worth exploring to generate greater demand for healthy food in a variety of retail locations.
FASH, Action 4.2.3 Increase healthy and local food distribution to small-scale food purchasers, including childcare and after-school facilities. Evaluate ongoing efforts, identify new approaches, and launch pilot projects as needed to achieve this.		If funded, partnerships as part of the CDD/CIB Sodium Reduction in Communities Grant could be leveraged toward this action via an increased emphasis on scratch cooking.
FASH, Action 4.3.2 Support more schools and school districts in implementing programming that serves breakfast in the classroom. Support increased awareness of Massachusetts DESE guidance to school districts that breakfast is counted as "time on learning."		
FASH, Action 5.1.2 Support strategies to address immediate food needs of patients at doctors' offices, hospitals, and health centers including scaling of programs in which doctors write prescriptions for patients to fill for fresh fruits and vegetables – at no cost – at local farmers markets and other retail outlets.		
FASH, Action 5.1.5 Encourage medical institutions to modify food procurement contract language to purchase more locally produced healthy foods, including setting local food procurement benchmark of at least 20 percent.		If funded, partnerships as part of the CDD/CIB Sodium Reduction in Communities Grant could be leveraged toward this action via an increased emphasis on scratch cooking.
FASH, Recommendations 6.2 (Related Actions*) Foster more direct connections among hunger relief agencies and local farmers, fishermen, and food producers.		HBHC/CAFH - Mattapan Food Pantry
Tier IV Already completed		

FASH, Action 7.4.2 Work with major employers, cooperative food markets, nonprofits, local food policy councils, and others to establish CSA deliveries at workplaces, as well as community centers, churches, and other similar locations.		Previously had a workplace CSA program prior to the closure of Serving Ourselves Farm on Long Island.
FASH, Action 7.4.3 Evaluate prior “Healthy Bodega” and “Healthy Corner Store” programs. Produce recommendations, and expand and improve implementation.		Previously implemented and evaluated CDD/CIB's "Healthy On The Block" corner store initiative.
* This activity is related to the Recommendation but there is no direct relationship to a specific Action Item		

Federation of Massachusetts Farmers Markets
 Contact: Jeff Cole
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Goal/Action Item from Food Plan	Resources needed	Notes
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Tier I Priorities (Significant, tied to agency/organization policy or program priorities)

Land 1.1.3 Enact legislation to exempt farmland eligible for Chapter 61A from municipal storm or floodwater fees.	legislation	To increase farm production in a state with such high land values, some forms of investment incentives are needed.
3.9.1: Enact legislation to modify State estate tax to allow farmland to be valued according to its current use.		
Inputs 2.1.1: Expand nutrient management planning and implementation technical assistance, especially in light of the new regulatory requirements. The USDA-NRCS, UMass Extension, MACC, and other technical assistance providers should provide increased resources and expertise.		
3.3.3: Provide technical and financial support to farmers for irrigation and waste water testing, to assist in compliance with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration’s Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) regulations and USDA’s Good Agricultural Practice (GAP).		
5.3.12: Improve the efficiency of food transportation routes by mapping existing local food distribution and recommending optimized distribution routes.		
Farming 1.3.5: Increase funding and support for vocational and agricultural high school farmer training programs, as well as community college hands-on agricultural programs.		Food producers and workers of the future must be trained

2.3.1: Develop a system of checks and balances to support appropriate engagement of municipal boards of health and conservations commissions in agricultural issues and reduce unwarranted or unjustified regulations.		Required to expand farm production and direct sales
Fishing 2.3.4: Create markets for diverse fish and shellfish species to encourage the harvesting of a range of fish and shellfish species to ensure stable livelihoods and ecological resiliency		
4.1.1: Create a seat for the MFPC Advisory Committee for a representative of the fishing industry.		
1.1.3: Make building codes appropriately scaled for businesses of different sizes. In particular, review and reform the State Plumbing Code.		
1.2.2: Explore and implement options for credentialing of the local public health workforce, accreditation of local health departments, and regionalization of local public health services and regulations, in order to increase capacity and expertise of local regulators.		
1.2.4: Move regulation of slaughter oversight to MDAR, and create a state inspection program.		Proven successful in other states to increase production and sales.
2.5.1: Ensure continued support and funding for the Massachusetts Public Health Inspector Training that trains local regulators to uniformly enforce food regulations, and require that local regulators participate.		
Distribution and Marketing 1.1.1: Encourage and support \$10 million in public financing for the Massachusetts Food Trust, which would allow additional private funds to be raised.		
1.3.1: Provide public support to farmers markets to market local foods and expand the number of Massachusetts residents consuming local food.		
1.3.2: Increase State funding for buy local organizations to at least \$500,000 annually.		
1.4.3: Replicate and disseminate best practices by health care providers that increase the consumption of healthy Massachusetts-produced foods.		
1.4.4: Continue to support health care providers and regulators to incentivize purchases of healthy, Massachusetts-produced foods, through programs such as vegetable prescriptions and other healthy food incentive programs.		
2.3.3: Analyze successful and failed distribution business models and develop case studies. Disseminate the information and data.		

2.4.2: Disseminate information to food system businesses about programs that support purchasing of local goods, including E.O. 503 Small Business Purchasing Program and the Supplier Diversity Program.		
2.4.3: Develop and share standardized contract language for all State agencies and municipal purchasers to enable greater purchasing of Massachusetts-produced food products.		
3.3.2: Develop farm to small wholesale and retail business models (including bodegas) to sell frozen, ambient-temperature, and refrigerated produce. Develop grant programs to support the models.		
4.1.3: Support Massachusetts higher education programs in the development and offering of appropriate curriculum to meet the needs of locally based food system businesses. Promote these programs.		
5.1.6: Adopt CQP as Massachusetts' farm food safety standard to meet all federal requirements.		
5.1.8: Ensure that MDAR has personnel resources to conduct audits or contract with third parties to audit.		
5.2.2: Create clear expectations and interpretation of the food code, and a mandatory public process for issuing DPH and local board of health regulations so that all stakeholders are involved in the process of crafting and reviewing proposed regulations prior to implementation.		
7.1.2: Increase purchase allowance for local foods for all State colleges, universities, daycare providers, and K-12 schools.		
7.1.3: Increase funding for State agency and institutional local food procurement.		

<p>Marketing 1.2.1: Develop standardized guidelines regarding the use of the word 'local' when advertising and marketing food. The guidelines should be designed primarily to support Massachusetts growers, fishermen, manufacturers, and retailers, and secondarily to support New England growers, fishermen, manufacturers, and retailers.</p>		
<p>1.2.2: Dedicate funding to engage outside expertise to evaluate the effectiveness of existing MDAR brands including Mass Grown and Fresher, Made with Pride, Savor Massachusetts, Commonwealth Quality, and other local and regional brands. Based on the findings, develop funding and marketing recommendations for revived programs or for a new branding initiative. Develop program requirements to ensure that any products bearing the brands are grown, processed, and distributed following appropriate food safety standards and using environmentally sustainable practices. Develop and implement strategies to educate the public about the program's standards. Provide funding for a full-time brand manager based at MDAR to oversee the program.</p>		
<p>1.2.7: Train farmers and fishermen in point-of-sale packaging, branding, labeling, and identification, particularly when selling in the wholesale chain.</p>		
<p>FASH F1.1.1: Maintain the Massachusetts Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) and review its expansion, as well as the enactment of similar tax credits and household supportive subsidies (i.e. assistance for child care from the Department of Early Education and Care (EEC) that will increase the proportions of household incomes that are available for groceries and other necessities.</p>		
<p>3.1.1: Leverage and maximize the FINI grant award to increase use of SNAP and complementary benefit programs at farmers markets, farm stands, mobile markets, and for community supported agriculture (CSA) programs. Identify, support, and implement methods to sustain FINI-related healthy food purchasing incentive initiatives.</p>		
<p>3.1.2: Fund the FINI-HIP Trust Fund.</p>		

4.1.1: Re-introduce contemporary home economics curricula to public middle and high schools.		
4.2.1: Provide financial incentives to school districts and academic institutions to modify contracts for local food procurement to include requirements or incentives for food service providers to serve more healthy local foods. Set goals for local food procurement of between ten percent and 20 percent and include mechanisms that increase the transparency of the food procurement process and insure that the “local” origin can be verified.		
5.1.3: Encourage and support nonprofit hospitals in supporting and partnering with community-based programs that promote healthy food access and nutrition education.		
6.1.2: Modify food procurement contract language to utilize at least ten percent of MEFAP dollars to purchase locally produced, healthy food.		
8.3.1: Strengthen culinary certificate programs at community colleges.		
8.4.1: Eliminate the sales tax exemption for sugar-added soda beverages and direct the resulting tax revenue to nutrition programs that increase the access to, and consumption of, healthy foods, including locally produced foods.		
Workforce Development 1.1.5: Pair food system occupation information with upcoming labor market training being developed and put on by Department of Elementary and Secondary Education and Commonwealth Corporation.		
1.5.1: Work with the Massachusetts Division of Apprenticeship Standards and food businesses to assess applicability of apprenticeships to meet food system occupational training and staffing needs.		
Implementation 1.2.7.3: Develop and execute a media strategy around the Plan.		

1.2.17: Develop relationships with businesses, organizations, and municipal stakeholders not yet engaged in the process to identify and pursue opportunities for collaboration.		
1.3.2.10: Dedicate State funding to staffing a Food Policy Coordinator position to support the work of the MFPC , housed at one of the member agencies.		
1.5.4: Include food accessibility in State Transportation Improvement Program evaluation criteria.		
1.5.10: Take food system issues, including labor and workforce development, into consideration when developing Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy reports and regional economic growth plans.		
Tier II Priorities		
Land 1.1.1 tax credit for agricultural buildings...	legislation, assesment on minuciple tax base	To increase farm production in a state with such high land values some forms of investment incentives are needed.
1.2.1 Modify Chapter 61A to direct the Farmland Valuation Advisory Commission (FVAC) to guide and limit municipalities setting their own farmland values, to ensure that values are based on use value, not sales value.	legislation	In a small state, disparity of conditions hampers comeptition and innovation, limiting capacity to meet consumers needs.
1.4.1: Fully expend all existing bond authorizations for farm viability by 2018, and increase funding for the FVEP in subsequent authorizations.		To increase farm production in a state with such high land values and demand for direct retailing of farm goods, some forms of investment incentives are needed.
2.3.9: Provide technical assistance to town community preservation committees, agricultural commissions, and land trusts about how CPA funds can be used to support farmland protection, as well as affordable housing associated with farmland.		
1.5.1: Fund the APR AIP at a level that meets program demand, and expand AIP eligibility to farmland protected with Conservation Restrictions.		To increase farm production in a state with such high land values and demand for direct retailing of farm goods, some forms of investment incentives are needed.
1.7.2: Advocate for federal crop insurance products that would cover the loss of fruit trees and other perennial crops in the event of vandalism, flooding, wildlife, or other damage not covered by existing crop insurance policies.	Increase in U-Mass Extension capacity/budget	
2.3.3: Increase the APR program's current per-acre cap.		
3.2.2: For land identified through the inventory as suitable for agricultural production and as appropriate per controlling agency mission, establish a process for negotiating potential agricultural use on parcels with the appropriate State agencies.		

3.4.1: Provide technical assistance and model zoning bylaws and ordinances to encourage municipalities to support the use of land, rooftops, and unused infrastructure for urban agriculture.		
3.4.3: Provide more public education on urban food production techniques in community gardens and home gardens, such as growing vegetables, composting, keeping bees, chickens, and other animals.		
3.14.1: Integrate and expand existing NGO farm-linking databases, so farmland owners and seekers in all parts of the State, including urban areas, can more readily find each other. Provide State support for these databases. Educate farmland owners and agricultural commissions about these databases.		
4.2: Expand private and public markets for carbon credits and water quality credits to provide additional revenue sources for farmers while protecting the environment.		
Inputs 1.2.3: Launch an educational campaign to teach consumers about when a product is still safe to eat, even past the expiration or sell by date.		Will increase system's efficiency.
1.4.6: Advance and incentivize smaller-scale anaerobic digestion technology installations for farms, schools, supermarkets, and at other sites such as State prisons and colleges and universities.		
3.3.7: Develop a model ordinance to exempt urban farms from sewerage fees.		
require a date label, using information from Harvard Law School's Food Law and Policy Clinic.		
1.3.5: Increase participation in existing education and training around the handling of fresh food for those donating, distributing, and serving the food. Best management practices are being developed through a collaborative effort of the EPA, Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH), and MassDEP, with support from Harvard Law School's Food Law and Policy Clinic and the Center for Ecological Technology.		
1.5.7: Include Massachusetts-produced compost in marketing efforts for locally produced agricultural products.		

3.2.2: Provide the resources and technical assistance needed to help farmers adapt to increased impacts from flooding, drought, and other expected impacts of climate change.		
4.1.3: Increase UMass Extension resources for providing integrated pest management (IPM) technical assistance and education to farmers, homeowners, and other pesticide users.		
5.1.1: Increase funding to the MDAR's Farm Energy Program to meet unmet demand. MDAR has been allocating \$150,000 per year in State funds; increasing the State allocation to \$350,000, as authorized in the environmental bond, would better help meet demand.		
5.2.4: Support the expansion of "upstream programs" where utilities offer energy efficiency rebates and incentives to distributors and manufacturers, rather than to customers		
Farming 1.1.3: Fully fund the 2014 bond authorization that would support the UMass Center for Urban Sustainability in Waltham.		
1.1.2: Identify, examine, and pursue a wide spectrum of potential and current revenue sources for UMass Extension that match the current and future needs of the food system.		
2.2.4: Bring together farmers, plumbers, and regulators to develop a suitable agricultural plumbing code.		Required to expand particularly direct sales and value added farm direct sales.
pertaining to agricultural production and marketing so that farmers can more efficiently manage agricultural operations and market opportunities across town		Required to expand farm production and direct sales.
1.2.2: Develop UMass Extension's capacity to help farmers understand and respond to demands of new or revised regulations in a timely manner.		
2.1.2: Ensure that regulatory processes are transparent; that they operate in a timely and predictable fashion; and that they are appropriate to the size of the farm being regulated		Required for growth
2.1.5: Review regulations at least every ten years to ensure that the standards they set match the reality of current agricultural practices and needs and other concerns		Needed for growth
2.3.2: Develop the capacity of agricultural commissions through an organization such as the MAAC, with support from MDAR, to play a formal role in local decisions and issues related to agriculture.		

2.3.7: Explore and implement options for credentialing of the local public health workforce, accreditation of local health departments, and regionalization of local public health services and regulations.		
2.5.3: Assess the suitability of a State-level meat inspection program and implement, if deemed appropriate.		
3.1.1: Assure that MDAR's annual budget is at least as much as the agency receives in fees each year.		
3.1.8: Make available public loans and grants for on-farm and shared physical infrastructure investments.		Lack of competition and avoidance by commercial banks yields higher rates which limits capacity to increase production.
3.2.5: Develop a Venture-Oriented Investment Fund		
3.1.1: Promote locally caught fish species through established seafood outlets and distribution channels such as conventional grocery, retail, and fish markets.		
3.1.8: Encourage the sale and consumption of lower-cost, underutilized species, like whiting, Arcadian redfish, dogfish, and scup in all markets.		
Fishing 2.1.2: Support new and established retail and wholesale infrastructure through low interest business loans or grants and other programs.		required to increase sales of local
2.3.1: Perform a review of regulations related to the seafood supply chain, and recommend reformation of those that are overly-restrictive or outdated.		
5.1.4: Research land-based aquaculture to identify opportunities and strategies for innovation and enterprise development.		
Processing 1.1.1: Clarify guiding regulatory codes and identify where modifications might be made. These should include federal, State, and local regulations that address a range of areas, from public health to building codes, with respect to business types and scales.		Required to expand production/sales.
1.2.1: Increase ongoing training of local and state regulators in 21st century agricultural and food issues. Increase training of farmers, agriculture commissions, and others in public health and food safety.		
1.3.2: Ensure that food processors are offered support when they seek support related to regulations.		

3.2.2: Provide food processing entrepreneurs with technical assistance, financing resources, and business plan support in the startup phase, prioritizing businesses that use Massachusetts agricultural or seafood products as primary ingredients.		
3.3.3: Engage community colleges, regional employment boards, community development agencies, and other such entities to encourage the development of food processing workforce training programs.		
3.5.3: Develop opportunities for processing and preserving surplus produce that may otherwise be wasted.		increases sales options/sales.
4.1.1: Inventory existing infrastructure, system linkages, capacity, efficiencies, and bottlenecks, and assess current and projected needs for food aggregation storage, processing, and distribution strategies in Massachusetts and regionally		
4.2.2: Incentivize food processors to incorporate more locally-sourced raw products for processing and packaging.		
5.1.1: Inventory the capacity of existing food business incubators in Massachusetts to provide food storage, freezing, preparation, and distribution.		
5.3.2: Facilitate awareness and delivery of subsidies and tax credits to food processing businesses that create jobs and/or buy local ingredients.		
5.3.4: Educate about and promote alternative financing strategies such as royalty and contract financing.		
1.1.2: Develop a publicly-available inventory of food processing-related regulations that identifies relevant regulations and codes by business types. This could be in the form of a searchable digital interface.		Helpful to expand production/sales.
1.2.3: Increase the number of inspectors and their capacity to work with the private sector together to build toward compliance.		
2.5.2: Promote regional approaches to developing and enforcing food safety regulations.		
3.2.6: Foster increased local food product innovation and development in technical and vocational education settings, engaging with food processing businesses and institutions.		

3.3.2: Train new and incumbent employees for work in the culinary arts, and other food system related jobs through agricultural, vocational, temporary employment agency and nonprofit training programs, on-the-job training, and on-site employer-sponsored ESOL education.		
3.3.6: Develop career pathways in partnership with food processing and other food businesses to support employee development.		
4.1.6: Inventory underutilized or seasonally-used food processing facilities, and strategize matching these resources to food processing business demand.		
4.1.10: Identify all existing major financing resources for food processing, and consider the gaps for financing particular types of processing infrastructure.		
4.2.1: Encourage and support the use of innovative, responsible food packaging by offering companies incentives for using recycled materials or reducing packaging.		
5.2.2: Identify public and private financing sources for food processing infrastructure and equipment for food business incubator development.		
5.3.7: Establish revolving loan models that enable purchase of food processing equipment.		
Distribution and Marketing 1.1.3: Provide loans, grants, and technical assistance through the Massachusetts Food Trust to support new and expanded healthy food retailers and local food enterprises in low- and moderate-income communities that will create jobs.		
1.2.1: Fund and publish retail analysis, using community engagement research practices, that demonstrates unmet demands for healthy and local food, and highlight areas of opportunity and market potential for grocers and developers.		
1.4.1: Continue to educate health care providers, regulators, and medical schools about the ways they can increase the public's consumption of healthy, local food.		
2.1.3: Provide information to distributors about locally grown, raised, caught, and produced products available for wholesale in the State.		
2.2.1: Develop and pilot workable arrangements that avoid empty or partially empty loads in shipping vehicles and disseminate as models.		

<p>2.3.1: Collect information on wholesale sales and distribution for specific products such as cranberries, apples, dairy, lettuce, maple syrup, summer squash, winter squash, tomatoes, as well as other important Massachusetts products and cultural foods. Use this data as a benchmark to measure efforts to increase local production in the Commonwealth.</p>		
<p>2.4.1: Identify, through discussion with public and private stakeholders, State policies that impede the distribution of Massachusetts food, and revise accordingly.</p>		
<p>3.1.3: Attract public and private investment for food distribution innovation through a new economic development fund. Coordinate operations of the proposed fund with the MassDevelopment’s efforts to increase distribution efficiencies and innovations.</p>		
<p>3.1.4: Support prototyping of new ideas and ventures with investment and grant opportunities, including development of agricultural cooperatives, regional aggregation centers (food hubs) by third party entities, cooperative distribution models, cooperative distribution from farmers markets, and approaches that use technology to reduce food distribution costs.</p>		
<p>3.2.1: Engage colleges and universities that focus on business and entrepreneurship to support the development of innovative distribution businesses.</p>		
<p>3.3.1: Finance, construct, and operate infrastructure for local storage including ambient, refrigerated, and frozen storage as well as freezing facilities to complement the processing of lightly-processed produce in shared-use kitchens, food hubs or other facilities.</p>		
<p>4.1.1: Conduct a survey to establish technical assistance needs and create an inventory of existing technical assistance resources. Based on the survey results, develop education and support resources for food business operators and innovators related to creating business connections, becoming finance-ready, and accessing financing.</p>		

4.1.2: Engage existing business support providers (e.g., Small Business Association, The Carrot Project, and Conservation Law Foundation) in further developing and delivering needed technical assistance to local food producers, distributors, and retailers.		
5.1.1: Expand the role and purpose of CQP as a sustainability program and a food safety certification and regulatory certainty program.		
5.1.5: Develop resources to provide food safety regulation information, technical assistance, and training including through MDAR, DPH, and UMass Extension.		
5.2.1: Review and revise, with input from DPH, producers, and retailers, existing model policies that can be adopted by boards of health regarding specific or regional food safety concerns, and create new ones where needed there are gaps.		
5.4.3: Provide State support and technical assistance to local boards of health developing food safety regulations.		
6.1.1: Provide support to the Massachusetts Partnership for Food Safety Education to improve consumer food safety education programs. Focus on product labeling, freshness dating, and related information.		
6.1.2: Create a program of public education and point-of-sale signage about safe handling of food during and after purchase.		
7.1.1: Mandate minimum local food procurement for State universities and colleges, in addition to State agencies, and provide adequate reporting requirements and staffing for enforcement.		
7.1.6: Develop guidelines for municipalities to increase the threshold below which they may make direct purchases to enable larger purchases from farms.		
7.2.1: Commit funding for technical assistance services and resources for farm to institution producers and buyers.		
7.3.4: Increase distribution of locally caught or raised seafood in institutions.		
7.3.5: Increase opportunities for the production of value-added food products for farm to institution distribution. Examples are fresh or frozen cut fruit and vegetables, and more complex, processed foods, like fish cakes.		

2.1.1: Dedicate resources for a full-time staff position at MDAR to provide technical support and build relationships to facilitate Massachusetts farms, fisheries, and businesses to participate in the wholesale and hotel, restaurant, and institution markets.		
2.1.2: Educate retailers and distributors about the benefits of carrying and promoting Massachusetts products.		
2.2.2: Support the work of distribution 'matchmakers' that connect food producers and processors with markets.		
2.3.4: Inventory and map aggregation opportunities that can facilitate small-scale producers selling to large-scale operations. As part of this information, gather data on quality specifications, packaging, and volume requirements.		
2.3.5: Create and maintain a publicly available list and map of distribution, storage, and aggregation operations, including capacity, location, and services for produce, farm products, processed food, and fish and other seafood.		
2.4.5: Provide better information for cooperative enterprises by adding an electronic template/option or co-op incorporation forms on the Secretary of State website and by adding language appropriate to all kinds of business models.		
2.4.6: Set legislative standard to review science-based health regulations every five years.		
3.1.2: Gather and disseminate information and data on how businesses are innovating and the supports they need.		
4.1.5: Support models of food distribution that provide good wages and benefits, full-time jobs, opportunities for career advancement, and safe work environments.		
5.1.2: Gather data and modify key program requirements to increase the local use of CQP as a market access tool for wholesalers and retailers.		
5.1.4: Establish a CQP technical steering committee with members of MDAR, MassDEP, DCR, DMF, UMass Extension, and other identified State and federal partners to maintain program sector requirements and provide timely science-based updates to the program as well as emerging regulatory inclusion.		

5.1.7: Establish a system of certification pre-audits that are available for producers prior to official audit.		
5.3.1: Fund a coordinated effort to expand the makeup and scope of existing statewide Massachusetts food safety advisory groups, in interpreting and providing recommendations on implementing, and enforcing food safety regulations related to local food production and distribution.		
5.4.4: Fund and build capacity of regional organizations to provide food safety and handling training that is accessible to all boards of health in each region.		
6.2.2: Make available, at MDAR's Division of Agricultural Markets, technical expertise to deploy cold-chain packaging and grading training to increase the quality and availability of specialty crops through wholesale and retail channels.		
7.1.4: Establish a tracking mechanism and reporting requirement for local food purchasing by public institutions.		
7.3.1: Extend local food procurement programming to more public and private institutions, including primary and secondary schools, universities, hospitals, health care facilities, correctional facilities, elder care facilities, restaurants, grocery stores, and other food retail businesses.		
7.3.2: Fund and offer training programs to educate institutional purchasers on local food procurement, from food purchasing to preparation.		
7.3.7: Encourage programming that complements institution initiatives in public and private health care facilities, such as vegetable prescription programs.		
Marketing 1.2.4: Promote the use of the Massachusetts State brand by food businesses distributing local foods and food products outside of Massachusetts.		
1.2.6: Have the Massachusetts Attorney General enforce truth-in-advertising laws on food products sold in Massachusetts concerning point of origin and other claims.		
1.3.2: Develop a grant program for innovations in agricultural marketing related to production, processing, marketing, and distribution.		
1.3.3: Provide technical assistance and marketing resources to strengthen farmers markets, CSAs, and roadside stands.		

1.4.7: Expand nutrition education available through the UMass Extension Nutrition Education Program and UMass Amherst’s School of Public Health and Health Sciences’ Department of Nutrition regarding consuming, cooking, preserving, and nutritional of local and cultural foods.		
1.1.1: Develop a metric to measure consumption of Massachusetts-grown and processed foods, including seafood and seafood products.		
1.2.3: Dedicate funding to support buy local organization promotion efforts, the Massachusetts Seafood Marketing Program, and other sectoral marketing campaigns.		
FASH 1.2.2: Support and expand workforce education, training, and certification opportunities for food system workers. Begin by examining the opportunities to expand education, training, and certifications for jobs within the food system, as well as those in closely related fields, including healthcare.		
2.1.2: Ensure adequate funding to hire DTA staff for the timely, efficient, and reliable processing of SNAP applications and renewals. The DTA should renew their focus on assisting clients, particularly elders, people with disabilities, and applicants with limited English proficiency, in securing required documentation and verification.		
2.1.4: Implement federal options to reduce SNAP application barriers for low-income, seniors, and elder populations.		
3.1.6: Provide capacity and technical assistance to farmers markets to accept WIC and senior FMNP.		
5.1.1: Incorporate food insecurity screenings and referrals to food assistance resources into regular practice for visits to the doctor’s office or clinic.		
5.1.2: Support strategies to address immediate food needs of patients at doctors’ offices, hospitals, and health centers including scaling of programs in which doctors write prescriptions for patients to fill for fresh fruits and vegetables – at no cost – at local farmers markets and other retail outlets.		

5.2.2: : Encourage insurance providers to expand and offer discounts or rebates on premiums for purchase of healthy foods including CSA memberships and documented farmers market purchases, similar to health club discounts currently offered, or when prescribed as part of a fruit and vegetable prescription program.		
6.1.1: Identify ways and implement strategies to increase distribution and production of culturally appropriate and preferred foods available for purchase through MEFAP.		
7.1.3: Continue to support and expand Mass in Motion and similar municipal programs like food policy councils, and leverage existing Mass in Motion initiatives toward a “Health in All Policies” model that integrates health-related considerations into decision-making and planning throughout municipal and State agencies.		
7.5.3: Work with the Massachusetts Bay Transit Authority, the State’s regional transit authorities, and Metropolitan Planning Organizations to provide more direct and/or frequent bus routes to locations with better access to grocery stores and healthy food outlets.		
8.1.3: Examine the feasibility, and launch a public outreach campaign about the health and economic benefits of purchasing and consuming local food.		
1.2.1: Support the adoption of a living wage standard for Massachusetts workers, with exceptions for time-limited youth training on production farms and related retail operations.		
2.1.3: Identify and implement best practices for SNAP administration that have been developed in other States, through research and working with the USDA.		
2.2.1: Develop, test, and deploy a common application portal, either as improvement to the existing Virtual Gateway or new system, to enable people to apply for SNAP when applying for or renewing MassHealth membership.		
4.1.2: Encourage and support nutrition education that is age-appropriate for students in elementary schools.		

4.2.2: Expand existing, and support new, farm to school programming to increase the amount of healthy and locally produced foods purchased and served by pre- and K-12 schools, childcare, and after-school facilities. Incentivize expansion and creation of farm to school programs with public and private funds to support school districts.		
4.3.2: Support the expansion of complementary programs, such as Project Bread's Chefs in Schools, that support schools in creating appealing, healthy, and local school lunch menus.		
4.3.5: Maximize use of USDA's Summer Food Program and support efforts that promote and expand the program where there is demonstrated need, underuse, and where there are opportunities to co-locate Summer Food Programs.		Provided that local food is sourced.
5.1.5: Encourage medical institutions to modify food procurement contract language to purchase more locally produced healthy foods, including setting local food procurement benchmark of at least 20 percent.		
5.1.6: Encourage and support greater nutrition education in medical schools and relevant trainings for all medical professionals.		
6.1.3: Identify what, if any, shelf-stable, non-perishable food products purchased through MEFAP have the potential to be grown or produced in Massachusetts, and support the production of identified item(s) for inclusion in the program.		
6.2.2: Foster relationships between hunger relief organizations and fishermen to increase the distribution of locally caught fish, with a focus on distributing lesser known and eaten species that are abundant in Massachusetts.		
7.2.3: Develop more regional transportation options in rural areas to help improve access to grocery stores for people who live who live long distances from grocery stores, especially seniors, and those with disabilities.		
7.5.4: Expand Meals on Wheels to operate on weekends.		
8.1.1: Identify ways to further utilize and leverage existing food-health awareness campaigns and initiatives that reinforce the food-health connection, including USDA's MyPlate.		

8.1.2: Improve the format and distribution of the Massachusetts seasonal food calendars to increase understanding of locally harvested and caught foods available year-round.		
Workforce 1.1.1: Annually acquire and analyze labor market information about food system jobs, including wages, job openings, and forecasts of job growth for existing, changing, and emerging food occupations. Engage Workforce Investment Boards and Commonwealth Corporation in these activities.		
1.8.1: Increase availability of technical assistance to support food system business planning, viability, compliance with labor standards, effective management practices, and expansion.		
1.2.2: Conduct outreach to food system employers and facilitate introductions of One Stop Career Center business services staff to assist with dissemination of information about business support programs, such as Hiring Incentive Training grants and the Workforce Training Fund.		
1.3.2: Support development of hands-on agricultural, fisheries, and food system training approaches through development of connections between education and training programs, as well as food system businesses.		
1.4.5: Analyze existing supply chain management training and education offerings to determine if they are sufficient to support food system expansion needs. Address insufficiencies as needed.		
1.7.1: Provide transportation reimbursement for students to attend agricultural high schools.		
1.7.3: Link the relevant agribusiness academic and training resources at Chapter 74 Career/Vocational Technical Education schools with interested comprehensive high schools.		
Implementation 1.2.5: Secure funds for the collaboration's operation and for any projects identified in the yearly implementation action plan.		
1.2.9: Develop strategic communications tools to keep Plan participants informed and engaged in implementation activities, and to broaden the network of engaged public and private sector participants.		
1.2.12: Develop an annual implementation action plan for the collaborative, with benchmarks towards progress on specific goals and recommendations.		

1.2.14: Take the lead or identify entities to take on projects proposed by the Plan, such as developing user-friendly guides to regulations, adapting portions of the Plan as advocacy tools, or system mapping.		
1.2.18: Seek opportunities to integrate the implementation efforts of this plan with existing activities by municipal governments and food policy councils, regional planning agencies, and economic development organizations.		
1.2.21: Secure resources to provide needs-based funding or stipends to organizations or entities interested in implementation.		
1.3.2.12: Review and discuss pending regulatory changes, as well as ballot initiatives, that relate to the food system, assessing these actions in the context of the broad system and the goals of the Plan.		
1.5.3: Include food system planning in the Baker Administration's Community Compact best practices.		
1.5.8: Include farmers and practitioners from all sectors of the food system in emergency preparedness planning.		
1.5.9: Allow the use of District Local Technical Assistance funds for local and sub-regional food system planning and implementation tasks.		
<i>Tier III Priorities (Monitor, engage as resources allow)</i>		
Land 1.1.4 explore ways to provide financial incentives to communities that enact farm-friendly zoning and tax policies,		State food planning and action requires state level support.
1.2.3: Task the Massachusetts Department of Revenue (DOR) with creating a guidance document on Chapter 61A for local assessors and appraisers.		
1.3.1: Expand "best practices" in Baker Administration's Community Compact initiative to include zoning that allows ancillary commercial activities on farm properties, including accessory apartments.		
1.7.2: Advocate for federal crop insurance products that would cover the loss of fruit trees and other perennial crops in the event of vandalism, flooding, wildlife, or other damage not covered by existing crop insurance policies.		
2.3.1: Fully expend existing bond authorizations provided for the APR Program in the 2008 and 2014 Environmental Bond by 2018, and establish an annual bond. cap that allows maximum leveraging of federal farmland protection funds		

3.2.1: Through the proposed State farmland action plan, task EEA with identifying land owned by the State and counties that is either in current agricultural production or suitable for agricultural production.		
3.2.6: Change State law to allow State agencies to retain and reinvest the revenues they receive from leasing farmland to farmers. Develop guidelines around lease fees.		
3.10.1: Enact a farmland restoration program similar to Connecticut's Department of Agriculture's Farmland Restoration Program.		
Inputs 1.2.6: Encourage and support the development of innovative technology to efficiently separate food from packaging so more food can be composted or turned into energy.		
Farming 1.3.3: Improve programs offered by MDAR and UMass Extension to aid farmers in understanding and addressing the demands of the federal FSMA, other food safety regulations, and third party audit systems, particularly as they relate to farmers' ability to sell at farmers markets and access other retail and wholesale outlets.		Some existing work by NGO's and that should be included.
Fishing 2.4.1: Expand and fund mechanisms for source-tracking for locally landed fish and shellfish, so that all fisheries in Massachusetts are tracking and recording details about their catches, and fisheries data is improved.		
5.1.7: Commit State funding and grants to expanded research for local seafood product development and sustainable fish and shellfish operation innovation, with an eye toward expanding markets for underutilized species.		
Processing 3.2.4: Establish and expand private investment options for those interested in supporting local food businesses.		
3.4.1: Build partnerships between food processing businesses and educational institutions, such as engineering departments to design and develop intermediate-scale food processing equipment.		
4.1.2: Conduct research to assess vulnerabilities of food processing facilities, distribution systems, and supply chains as these vulnerabilities relate to climate change, sea level rise, and severe weather events. Determine proactive measures that prepare for emergencies and long term impacts on these systems.		

Distribution and Marketing 2.4.4: Allow hard copy business paperwork to be filed at regional offices, rather than only in Boston.		
3.1.1: Convene public and private stakeholders, as well as educational institutions, to conduct a needs assessment and develop creative ways existing food distribution infrastructure can be used more efficiently to increase cost effectiveness.		
3.1.5: Develop technology such as source-tracking systems like that used by Red's Best, to provide increased market data and serve as an online clearinghouse and marketplace for listing, distributing, and selling locally-produced and -processed foods, to connecting producers, distributors, and buyers.		
3.1.7: Provide financial support for food co-op startups.		
3.2.2: Increase connectivity between industry players, startup businesses, and supply chain producers of processing and distribution equipment to identify opportunities for strengthening the local innovation ecosystem and catalyze new partnerships and relationships.		
4.1.6: Coordinate a network to encourage peer-to-peer learning and to facilitate the transfer of knowledge of the food wholesale system.		
5.1.3: Increase participation in the CQP program, through outreach and education, for direct-market farms to ensure they employ and maintain the same food safety and environmental practice requirements as farms required to do so for market access.		
5.3.2: Strengthen relationships between local boards of health, DPH, Buy Local organizations, and other organizations to share information and improve dialogue.		
5.4.1: Create instructional resources for producers on the food safety protocols along the value chain, especially as FSMA is implemented.		
5.4.2: Require training for all boards of health agents on the Massachusetts Food Code, food safety, best practices, and FSMA, conducted by DPH, Massachusetts Health Officers Association, and the Massachusetts Association of Health Boards.		

5.4.5: Develop and integrate throughout MDAR and UMass Extension technical assistance to producers in obtaining and maintaining food safety certifications as required by buyers and FSMA, along with technical assistance for the CQP and GAP.		
6.2.1: Educate retail food sellers, restaurant workers and managers, farmers market operators, and others in food distribution about food donations that can be made to food banks, pantries, and meal programs without liability. Focus on product labeling, freshness dating, and related information.		
6.2.4: Expand the capacity of the UMass Extension Nutrition Education Program and the Massachusetts Partnership for Food Safety Education to address food safety issues.		
7.1.5: Establish benchmarks for local food procurement by State institutions. Consider modeling these benchmarks on already existing benchmark goals, like the Massachusetts Executive Branch's targets for purchases from minority- and women-owned businesses.		
7.1.7: Develop guidelines for private institutions to create policies and standards for increasing local food procurement.		
7.2.2: Develop and maintain an accessible, central inventory of institutions, farmers, fishermen, processors, and agencies in the farm to institution network to facilitate communication and distribution among the producers, buyers, and organizing agencies.		
7.2.3: Track, label, and market local food distributed through farm to institution channels as 'local.'		
Action 7.2.4: Promote best practices for local food procurement.		
7.3.6: Encourage programming that complements farm to institution initiatives in public and private universities and schools, such as schoolyard gardening, and agriculture and nutrition education.		
Marketing 1.2.5: Collaborate with New England and other Northeastern states in the integration of standards, co-promotion of state brands, strengthening and promoting the Harvest New England Brand, and identifying opportunities where the regional brand should be used.		

1.3.1: Strengthen technical assistance capability within MDAR to help farms develop integrated, cost effective marketing plans for both retail and wholesale channel development.		
1.3.4: Provide incentives to local processors, distributors, retailers, and restaurants that feature Massachusetts-grown and produced foods.		
1.3.6: Strengthen inter-agency collaboration between MDAR, Massachusetts Office of Business Development, the Massachusetts Small Business Administration, universities, and others to support the development of new value-added market opportunities.		
1.3.7: Identify, support, and expand opportunities for the development of markets outside of the Commonwealth, regionally, domestically, and internationally through the establishment of targeted out-of-area promotional and sourcing plans.		
1.4.1: Develop contacts, resources, and incentives that facilitate the purchase of local food and agricultural products by retail and wholesale food buyers, restaurants, and shoppers.		
1.4.4: Expand the State’s culinary tourism and agritourism programs to draw visitors to farms and businesses that feature locally grown and produced products, such as dairies, wineries, distilleries, cider producers, agricultural events, festivals, and restaurants that feature local products.		
1.4.5: Develop educational materials to improve public understanding about how food is produced and the costs of production as related to retail prices.		
FASH 1.2.3: Expand the number of organizations and community partners involved in job training.		
2.2.2: Explore use of a common application portal for other federal and State benefit programs.		
2.3.2: Collaborate with EEC to identify low income working families who may qualify for SNAP. Assist them with applications, and ensure that families claim all eligible child care, afterschool, and transportation expenses.		
3.1.3: Identify method for expanding healthy food purchasing incentives to all SNAP retailers statewide including grocery stores, corner stores, and bodegas.		

3.1.5: Conduct outreach to promote the success and benefit of the FMNP.		
4.2.4: Increase the number of schools that have full service kitchens, and provide additional training for food service staff.		
4.3.1: Maximize usage of USDA school food programs, including National School Food Lunch, School Breakfast, and Fruit and Vegetable Programs. Encourage school districts to adopt the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP). Support the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) in efforts to develop and adopt guidance that clarifies how funding will be allocated for CEP-eligible school districts.		
5.2.1: Provide SNAP application assistance at the time of enrollment in public health insurance programs, as well as providing easy-to-use directories and information about local DTA offices and services, nutrition trainings, and WIC application assistance.		
6.2.1: Scale existing relationships between hunger relief organizations and farms to increase distribution of locally produced, healthy foods. Identify and support establishment of new partnerships, including provision of public and private support as needed.		
7.2.1: Encourage MPOs and their Joint Committees on Transportation to add criteria for accessibility to healthy and local foods to project evaluations for regional transportation plans and to the annual scoring of projects for inclusion and prioritization in the regional and State Transportation Improvement Program.		
7.4.1: Support mobile farmers markets and mobile grocery markets through local food policy councils, anchor institutions, nonprofits, and agency resources. Encourage partnerships with local transit authorities, farms, distributors, farmers markets, and other transportation providers		
7.4.3: Evaluate prior “Healthy Bodega” and “Healthy Corner Store” programs. Produce recommendations, and expand and improve implementation.		

<p>7.5.1: In any expansions of SNAP, WIC, or senior meals programs, actions should be taken to address the transportation, mobility, and ADA compliance needs of people with disabilities for their entire shopping trip, including the transporting of groceries, from door to point-of-sale.</p>		
<p>8.1.4: Work in partnership with schools and childcare providers to send guides for parents on how to pack a healthy school lunch and snack. Provide support for guides and other materials that are sent out at the beginning of the school year.</p>		
<p>8.2.2: Support and promote efforts by food retailers, medical service providers, school staff and volunteers, and other entities to offer “healthy diets on a budget” information and classes, especially at locations where complementary programming that engages adults, youth, and children are already planned.</p>		
<p>8.2.3: Increase State, local, nonprofit, and private investments to expand the number of community kitchens including expanding the usage of existing kitchens for delivery of nutrition education and cooking courses for seniors, adults, and youth.</p>		
<p>8.3.2: Pilot collaborative employment models in partnership with employers where food preparation workers move between food service jobs and farm-based processing work and other kinds of collaborative employment arrangements.</p>		
<p>8.4.2: Monitor the implementation of FDA labeling requirements for product and calorie information on restaurant menus and vending machines. Study implications for Massachusetts consumers, businesses, and food providers.</p>		
<p>Workforce 1.3.1: Build practical connections that support the movement of trainees and graduates between agricultural and fisheries training programs to farms, fishing enterprises, and food production operations, including urban agricultural training programs.</p>		
<p>1.3.4: Support the revision of federal immigration policies so that they better meet the labor needs of Massachusetts farms.</p>		

<p>1.4.6: Research the applicability and relevance of existing environmental science, basic biology, and STEM programming (focused on science, technology, engineering, and math) offered through the community college and State university system. Determine how it can better support the strengthening of the food system and the education of food system workers. Implement changes as determined.</p>		
<p>1.6.2: Work with businesses and labor to target entry level food system workers in a wide variety of jobs (including farm workers, home health aides, school cafeteria workers, food servers, convenience and bodega store clerks, and others) for education and training that provides for pathways out of poverty and supports professional advancement.</p>		
<p>1.7.4: Support the development of curricular connections between school gardening programming, farm to institution food service relationships, and job and career information for students at elementary and secondary levels.</p>		
<p>1.8.2: Develop and disseminate models for shared labor pools that enable full-time, benefitted employment in the food system by creating work that spans across seasons of produce and fruit. Develop training for transferable skills applicable in different sectors of the food system.</p>		
<p>1.3.1: Members of the MFPC should support enacting legislation that broadens the scope of the MFPC beyond developing recommendations – currently its sole responsibility – to include actively coordinating food policy decisions and food system supports among agencies.</p>		
<p>1.3.2.1: Create additional seats on the MFPC to ensure representation of a broad range of public and private food system stakeholders. Consideration should be given to representatives of: the Governor’s office and Division of Marine Fisheries, the EOEEA, specifically an individual representing the land interests of State agencies, MassDOT,UMass Extension and the newly-established stakeholder network recommended by this plan, as well as an organization representing the interests of workforce development needs in the State.</p>		

1.5.12: Add guidance on food system planning for municipal planning documents, including master plans, open space and recreation plans, community needs assessments, hazard mitigation plans, and others.		
Tier IV Already performing or completed		
Farming 1.3.1: Create a network of education and technical service providers.		Done with Beginning Farmers network.
2.3.7: Create a professionally-facilitated working group that includes representatives from the fields of public health and food systems, as well as regulatory agencies, to develop a proposal to improve regulatory oversight of the local food system with respect to public health.		A few working groups exist now, perhaps better coordination is needed.
Fishing 3.1.3 Incentives available for use for fish.		Bounty Bucks does.
Processing 3.4.4: Develop models for cooperative use of food processing equipment by farmers, fishermen, specialty food producers, and other food processors.		Somewhat done. May indicate need for more effort.
Marketing 1.4.2: Provide seasonality education targeted for both retail-level produce and seafood buyers and consumers.		May need more resources to be effective.
1.4.6: Develop consumer educational materials about nutritional value of frozen, canned, dried, and otherwise preserved foods.		
FASH 3.1.4: Encourage Massachusetts' congressional delegation to continue and increase funding for the Farmers' Market Nutrition Program.		May need more public activity.
7.4.4: Increase the availability and affordability of CSA memberships among low-income residents through such innovative measures as the statewide Healthy Incentives Program, which will allow monthly CSA share payments from SNAP debit cards. Increase options for CSA pickup locations, such as workplaces, community centers, and churches that are more convenient to those without cars or limited transportation options		
Implementation 1.3.2.5: Hold more frequent meetings, to better facilitate discussion and ensure progress on tasks.		
Tier V Recommend no Action / not Applicable		
Inputs 4.1.1: Provide more education and technical assistance to homeowners and landscapers for proper use of pesticides through local boards of health.		We do not have the expertise nor the legal authority on pesticides.
FASH		

7.4.2: Work with major employers, cooperative food markets, nonprofits, local food policy councils, and others to establish CSA deliveries at workplaces, as well as community centers, churches, and other similar locations.		May be disruptive of local food. More study required.
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