



# Southern Nevada Food Council Update

Governor's Council on Food Security Meeting  
May 15, 2019

# Background & History

- ▶ August 2011: Three Square Food Bank brainstorming meeting
  - To determine the community's interest in food policy issues
  - To lay ground work for a potential food policy council in Southern Nevada



Established in 2007 to provide hunger relief

# Issues That Emerged

- ▶ Mobile Markets
- ▶ Community Gardens
- ▶ Nutrition education
- ▶ SNAP at Farmers' Markets
- ▶ Farm to School/School Gardens
- ▶ Fund-raising/Grant writing collaboration
- ▶ Online Community Food Security (CFS) site
- ▶ Marketing of gleaning programs through HOAs



Lowman & Manch Elementary School Garden

# Background & History (con't)

- ▶ October 2011: first meeting of the Vegas Valley Community Food Security Council
- ▶ May 2012: Farms & Family Festival @Springs Preserve
- ▶ November 2012: Planning Retreat with Mark Winne
- ▶ May 2013: Changed name to Southern Nevada Food Council
- ▶ Late 2013: SNHD facilitated meetings, list serv & updates
- ▶ 2016: Facilitation moved to UNCE



Mark Winne facilitating Planning Retreat in November 2012 at the Springs Preserve



# Southern Nevada Food Council

- ▶ Vision:
  - Equal access to healthy food for all Southern Nevadans
- ▶ Mission:
  - The SNFC will leverage the collective resources, expertise and passion of Southern Nevadans to influence the creation of an equitable and sustainable food environment through education and policy



Steve & Ginger Johnson,  
Las Vegas Farmers' Market  
was first in Nevada to accept  
SNAP/EBT

# How can we improve?



# Food Action Planning Meeting

- ▶ Strengths:
  - SNS Regional Plan
  - Access to a land-grant university
  - Potential for large impact
  - On the cutting edge of indoor agriculture
  - Robust school garden programs
- ▶ Food As a Tool
- ▶ Quick Starts:
  - Focus on easy, quick solutions
  - Use a “quick start” filter to prioritize issues



Dr. Wayne Roberts,  
Canadian Food Policy Analyst  
August 23, 2017

# Action Plan Accomplishments

- ▶ Develop food policy recommendations for Southern Nevada.
  - [UNCE SP 18-01](#) outlines ideas to help w/food-related objectives contained in the SNS Regional Plan
  - AB326 Workgroup input – amendment & map
- ▶ Advocate for food policy that supports our vision for the Southern Nevada food system.
  - 2017 Qualified Allocation Plan for *community gardens* (alerted by WCFPC)
  - Henderson Development Code revision for *apiaries*
  - 2019 Legislation: AB326, SB95, SB389



# Action Plan Accomplishments

- ▶ Promote public education and outreach on food issues.
  - Food System Field Trips
  - Monthly SNFC Meetings
- ▶ Promote collaboration among food system groups in Southern NV.
  - Monthly SNFC Meetings
  - Monthly SNFC Updates
  - Grants: 2017 FINI; Veggie Buck Truck – Dignity Health



Field trip to Ponderosa Dairies, Nevada's largest dairy farm located just 100 miles northwest of Las Vegas.

# Current Projects

- ▶ REACH Focus Groups
  - Henderson food desert
  - Perceptions of food access
- ▶ City of Las Vegas 2050 Comprehensive Plan Recommendations
  - Visioning session 4/25/19
  - Policies & programs
- ▶ Ongoing support
  - Food related policy
  - Food system grants, etc.



Several Council members participated in the CLV Visioning Session.

# Questions?

*“Cheap food is an illusion. There is no such thing as cheap food. The real cost of the food is paid somewhere. And if it isn’t paid at the cash register, it’s charged to the environment or to the public purse in the form of subsidies. And it’s charged to your health.”*

– Michael Pollan, author

