



“Whose Farm Bill? Our Farm Bill!”

Ashley St. Thomas, Director of Public Policy

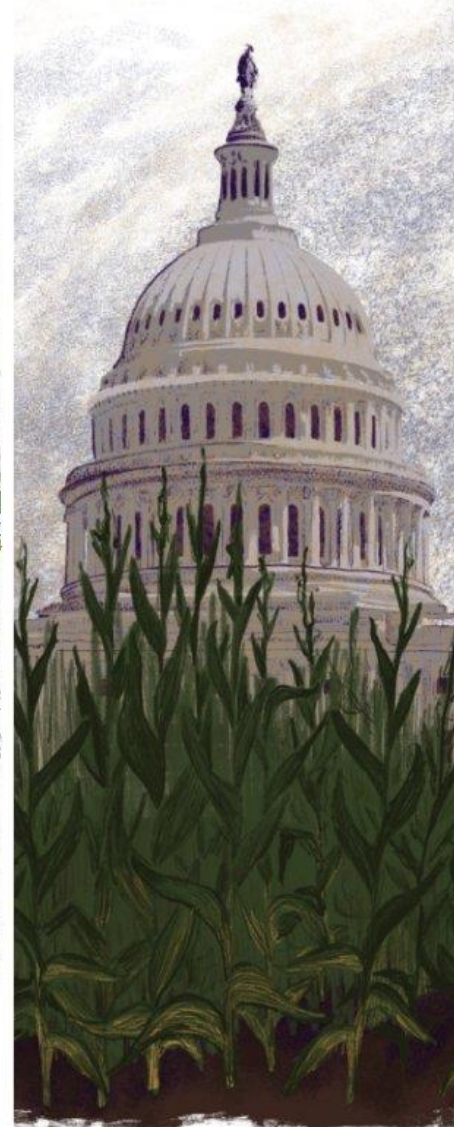
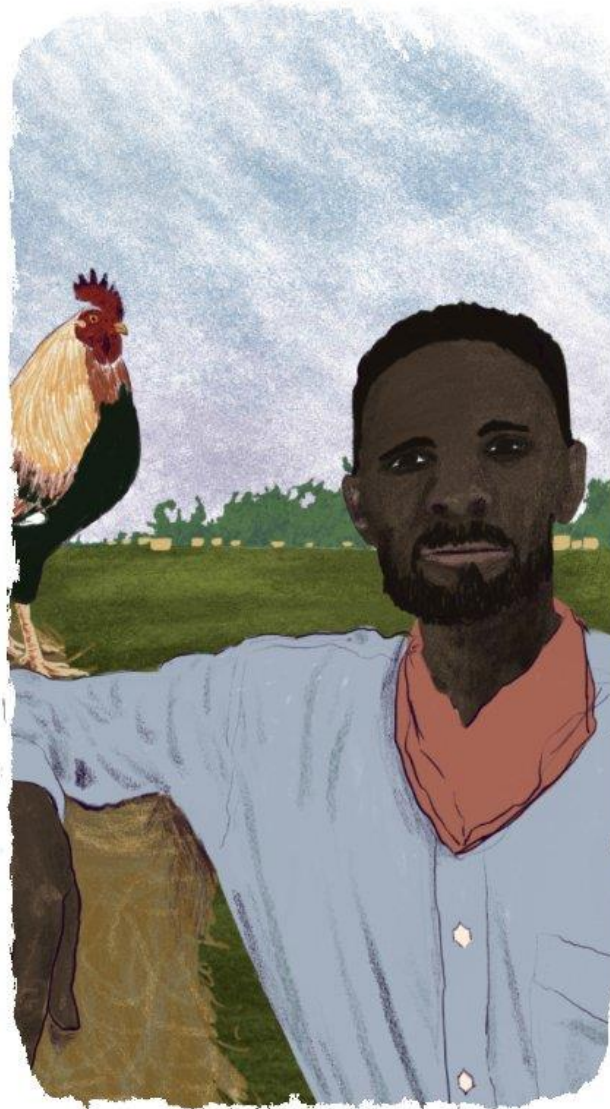
Arizona Food Bank Network

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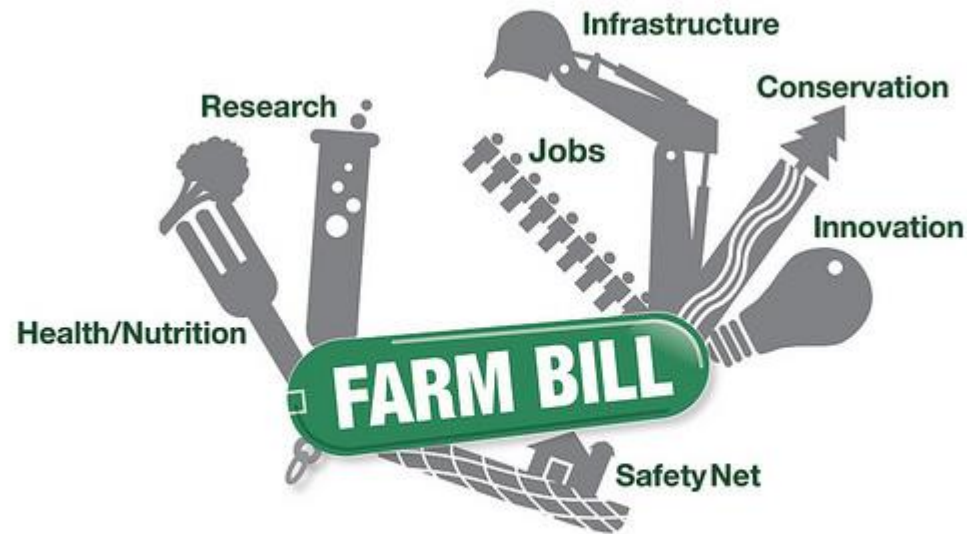


The Farm Bill & The Power of Coalition Building

“Whatever happens politically, it’s worth understanding what’s at stake beyond the negotiations and lobbying in D.C., and what the outcome could mean for farmers and eaters alike, especially at a time when the climate crisis and food insecurity are both urgent issues.”



What Is the Farm Bill?



"It's like a Swiss Army knife."

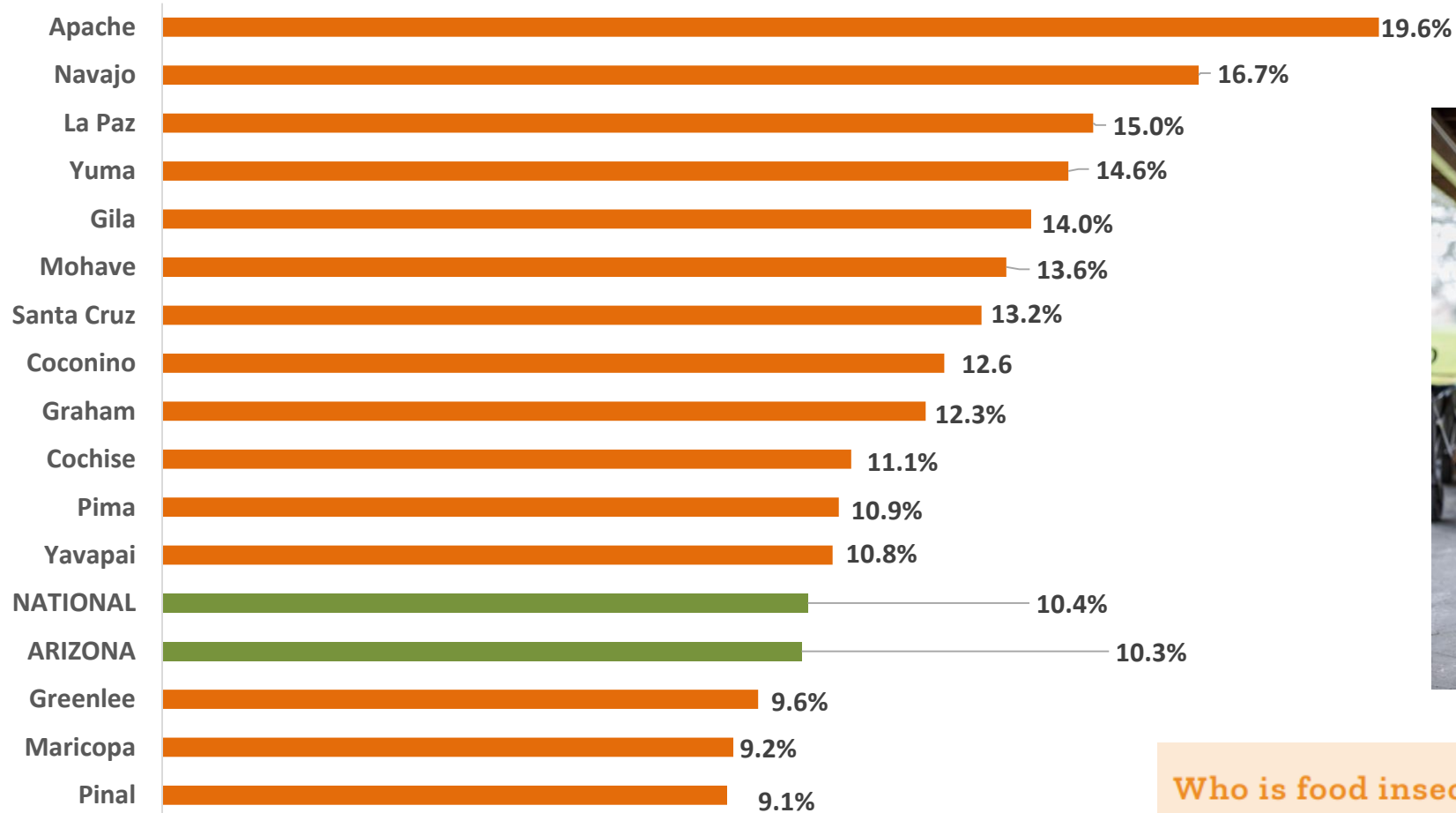
- President Obama 2/7/14

- An omnibus bill governing policy in many areas of the agriculture sector, including farm income support, food assistance, trade, and more
- Negotiated & reauthorized by Congress every five years since 1933
- 530 pages
- \$956 billion
- Bipartisan



Why Should We Care About It?


Food Insecurity Rates by County (2021)



Source: Feeding America's [Map the Meal Gap 2023](#).



Who is food insecure in Arizona?

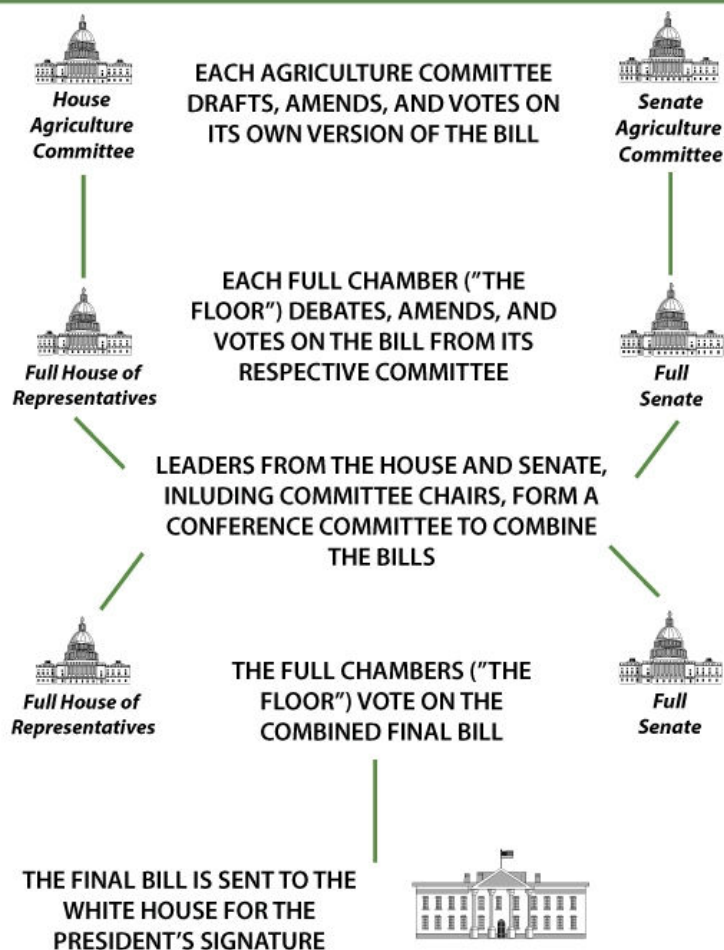
 798,790 Arizonans

 269,610 children



What Is the Farm Bill Process?

The Path to a New Farm Bill



12 Titles – Core Focus Areas

- Credit
- Conservation
- Commodities
- Trade
- Nutrition



Title IV: Nutrition

- **SNAP:** Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
 - **GusNIP:** Gus Schumacher Nutrition Incentive Program
 - **SNAP E&T:** Employment and Training
 - **SNAP-Ed:** Nutrition Education
 - **SNAP-O:** Outreach
- **TEFAP:** The Emergency Food Assistance Program (emergency food boxes)
- **CSFP:** Commodity Supplemental Food Program (senior food boxes)
- **FDPIR:** Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations
- **SFMNP:** Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program

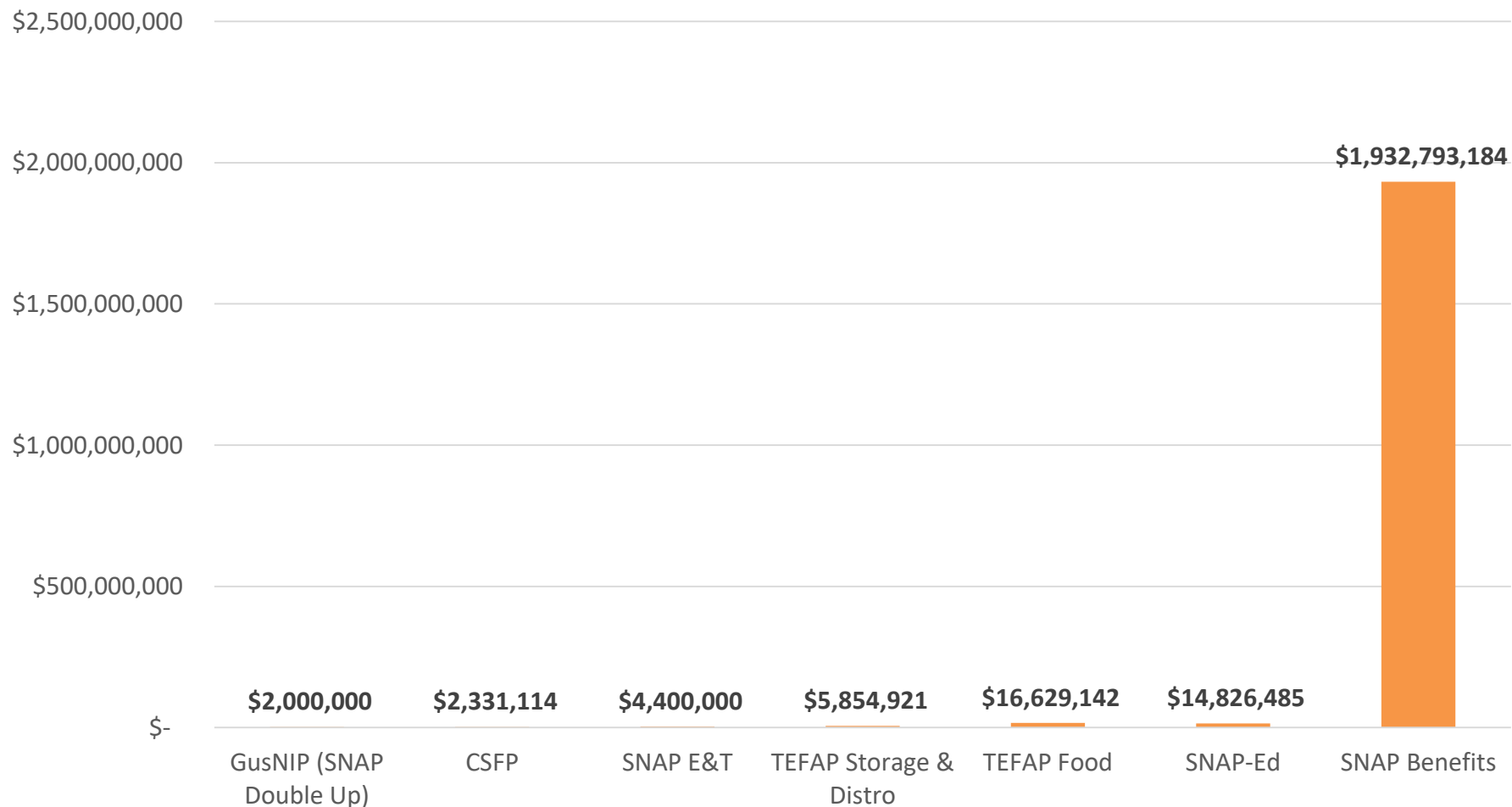


Note: Programs focused on child nutrition—school meals, summer meals, WIC (Women, Infants & Children), WIC FMNP (Farmers' Market Nutrition Program), CACFP (Child & Adult Care Food Program), etc.—are authorized through separate legislation.



Nutrition Programs: Funding for Arizona

Funding for Nutrition Programs in Arizona



Source: USDA Food & Nutrition Service, various sources, data from most recent year available, FY-22-FY23.



SNAP in Arizona

\$2.05 ^{5*}	SNAP benefit per person per meal (2022 monthly average) ⁶
\$273,893,360	infused into Arizona's economy each month (2022 monthly average) ⁷
872,780	Arizonans participating in SNAP each month (2022 monthly average) ⁸
68%	Arizonans who participate in SNAP are children, older adults, or people living with disabilities ⁹
43%	SNAP participants in Arizona are in working families ¹⁰
80	farmers' markets, farm stands, CSAs and corners stores accept Double-Up Food Bucks, the nutrition incentive program that helps SNAP participants access more fresh fruits and vegetables ¹¹

SNAP is America's largest and most effective anti-hunger program.

Eligible families use an electronic benefit transfer (EBT) card to purchase food at more than **4,200 retailers and grocers** across Arizona.



AzFBN 2023 Farm Bill Priorities

- **Strengthen SNAP: Improve adequacy, accessibility & equity**
 - Increase the monthly benefit
 - Repeal the Three-Month Time Limit
 - Repeal the Five-Year Bar
 - Repeal the Drug Felony Ban
 - Allow purchase of hot/prepared foods
 - Allow dual enrollment with FDPIR
 - Make college student access equal
 - Remove BAH from SNAP eligibility calculations for military service members
- **Improve & Fully Fund TEFAP**
 - \$900M for food and \$100M for S&D (~2% to AZ)
 - Make pandemic flexibilities permanent
- **Increase Access & Enhance CSFP**
 - Streamline income eligibility with TEFAP



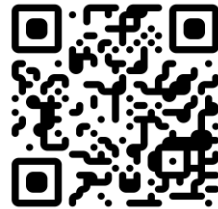
Ways to Get Involved!

Contact your Members of Congress and tell them why they should support these issues in the Farm Bill!



Access talking points and learn more about the Farm Bill!

Register for the monthly Anti-Hunger & Food Systems Policy Update calls (First Fridays at 12pm) to stay informed!



Download
AzFBN's 2023 Farm Bill
Priorities fact sheet!



Who's Farm Bill? Our Farm Bill!

5/4/2023, AzFBN Annual Conference
Kenneth Steel





Pinnacle Prevention is an Arizona based 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to cultivating a just food system and opportunities for joyful movement.



Farm Bill Titles

Title 1: Commodities

Title 2: Conservation

Title 3: Trade

Title 4: Nutrition

Title 5: Credit

Title 6: Rural Development

Title 7: Research, Extension, and Related Matters

Title 8: Forestry

Title 9: Energy

Title 10: Horticulture

Title 11: Crop Insurance

Title 12: Miscellaneous



The background features several watercolor-style illustrations. In the top left, there's a greyish-brown shape with a red heart-like shape and a cluster of yellow seeds. In the top right, a green leafy branch extends downwards. In the bottom left, a large green leaf with a yellow-green stem is visible. In the bottom right, there's a red shape with a cluster of brown seeds and a yellow circle.

Marker Bills

What is a marker bill? A bill introduced in Congress to signal policy ideas and gather support for those ideas, most often with a goal of inclusion in an omnibus bill like the farm bill.

Why do we need them? Marker bills help lawmakers and grassroots advocates alike build support for policy asks.

With a large omnibus bill like the farm bill, having smaller packages like marker bills helps ideas get attention - and the more support we get for the marker bills we like, the more likely they'll be pulled into the final omnibus bill.

Strengthening Local Processing Act S.354 and H.R.945

Senator John Thune (R-SD), Senator Sherrod Brown (D-OH), Representative Chellie Pingree (D-ME), and Representative Jim Baird (R-IN)

SLPA is a comprehensive bill that promotes competitive agricultural markets and invests in economic development by addressing acute livestock supply chain issues, supporting small meat and poultry processing plants, and promoting training programs that will bolster the resilience of communities and their food systems.

\$20 million in competitive grants to small and very small establishments, state inspected facilities, custom exempt facilities, or new small-scale slaughter facilities for activities related to promoting appropriate upscaling to meet local needs, and to business practices that make these plants more resilient.



Agriculture Resilience Act H.R.1840 and S.1016

**Congresswoman Chellie Pingree (D-ME) and
Senator Martin Heinrich (D-NM)**

A comprehensive approach to addressing climate change in agriculture that offers straightforward, farmer-driven, incentive-based strategies for how the next farm bill can address climate change while supporting farmer livelihoods.

Agricultural research, soil health, farmland preservation, pasture-based livestock management, on-farm renewable energy, and food waste initiative.



Farmers' Market & Food Bank Local Revitalization Act

H.R. 2378

Representatives Kaptur (D-OH) & Evans (D-PA)

Investments in local and regional food systems which will strengthen the connections between local farmers and local eaters, all while supporting public health and a vibrant economy.

Funding for SFMNP and WICFMNP, increasing individual benefit levels. Infrastructure for farmers' markets. Pilot Program for food banks and local farmer contracting.





Proposed Timeline (ARA)

Month	Farm bill phase	ARA campaign
March	Hearings, marker bill development	Rally for Resilience, ARA introduction
April	Continued marker bill introduction	Cosponsorship drive Other marker bills with elements of ARA introduced
May-June	Farm Bill drafting	Continued cosponsorship drive Messaging work Check in regularly with MoC offices re: climate priorities
July	Possible Farm Bill floor debate & vote	Mobilize as needed on amendments and votes
August	August recess	Great opportunity for in-district meetings
September	Possible Farm Bill vote 2016 Farm Bill expires September 30	Mobilize as needed on amendments and votes



Farmer Advocacy

- Cohort of 10 AZ farmers/producers engaging next couple months
 - Double up, Climate, Farm to School, Animal husbandry
- 
- 



Thanks!

Do you have any questions?

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281-798-9978



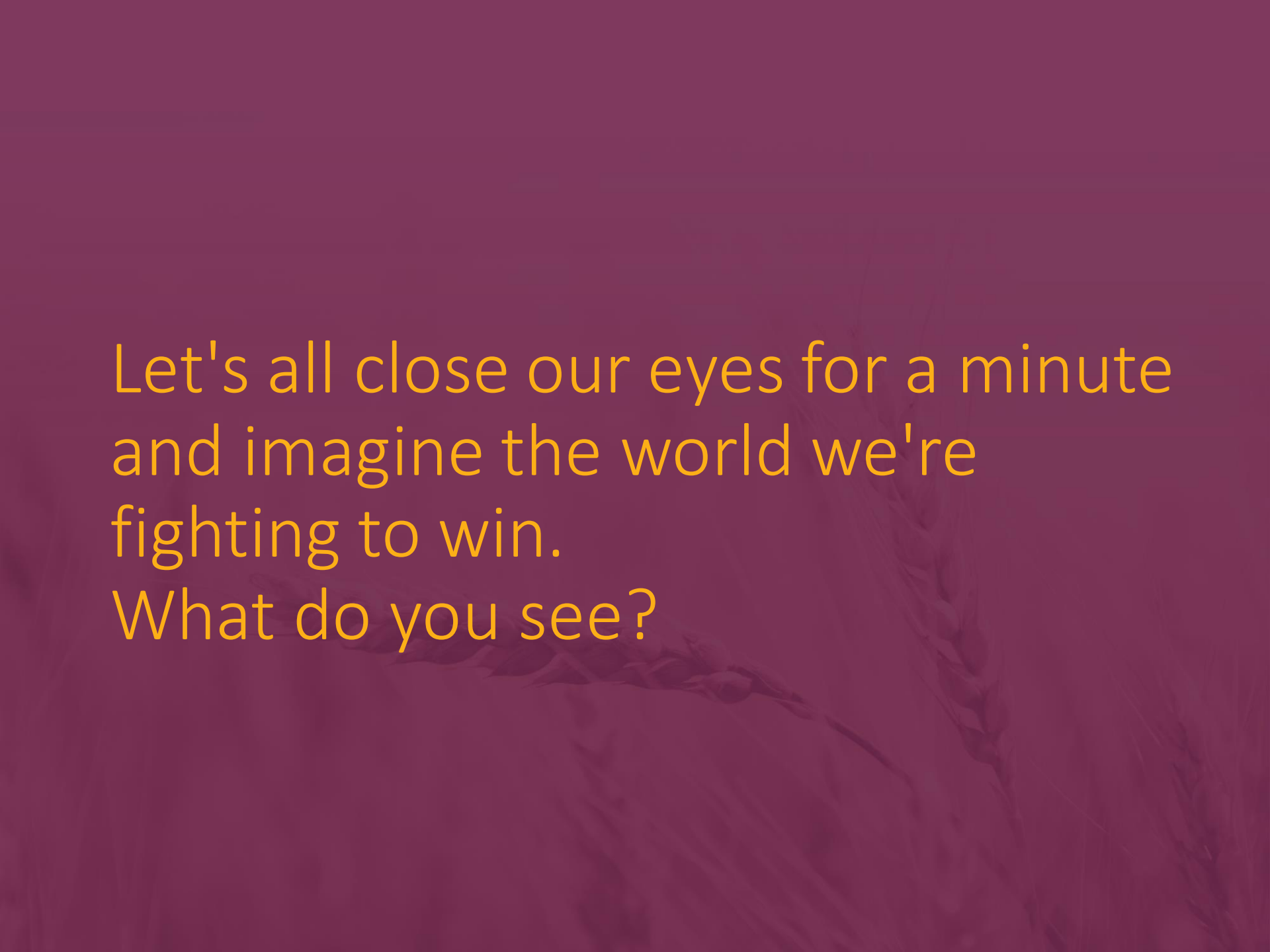
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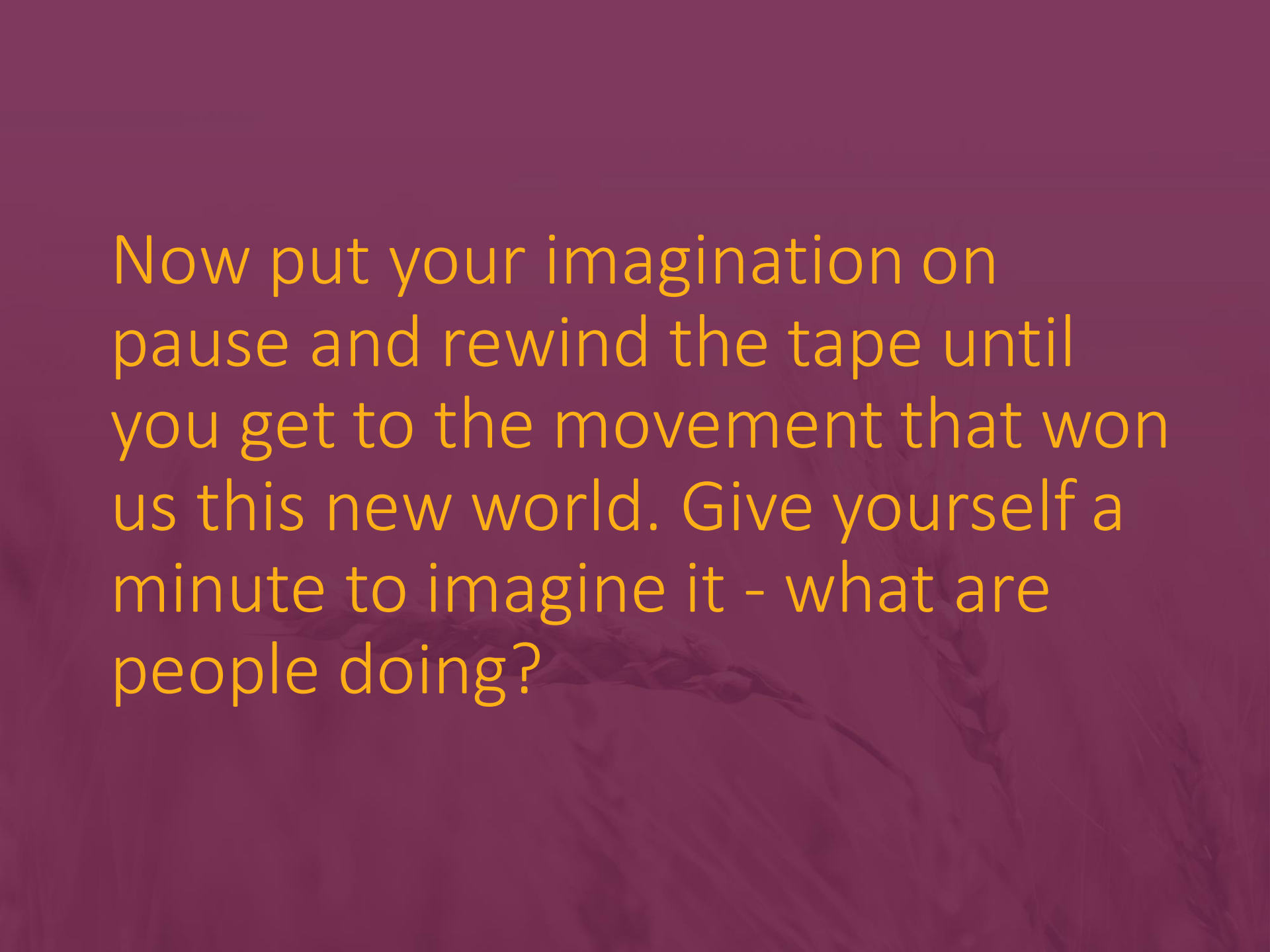
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Grassroots Organizing and Coalition Building

Claudio Rodriguez - CFBSA



Let's all close our eyes for a minute
and imagine the world we're
fighting to win.
What do you see?



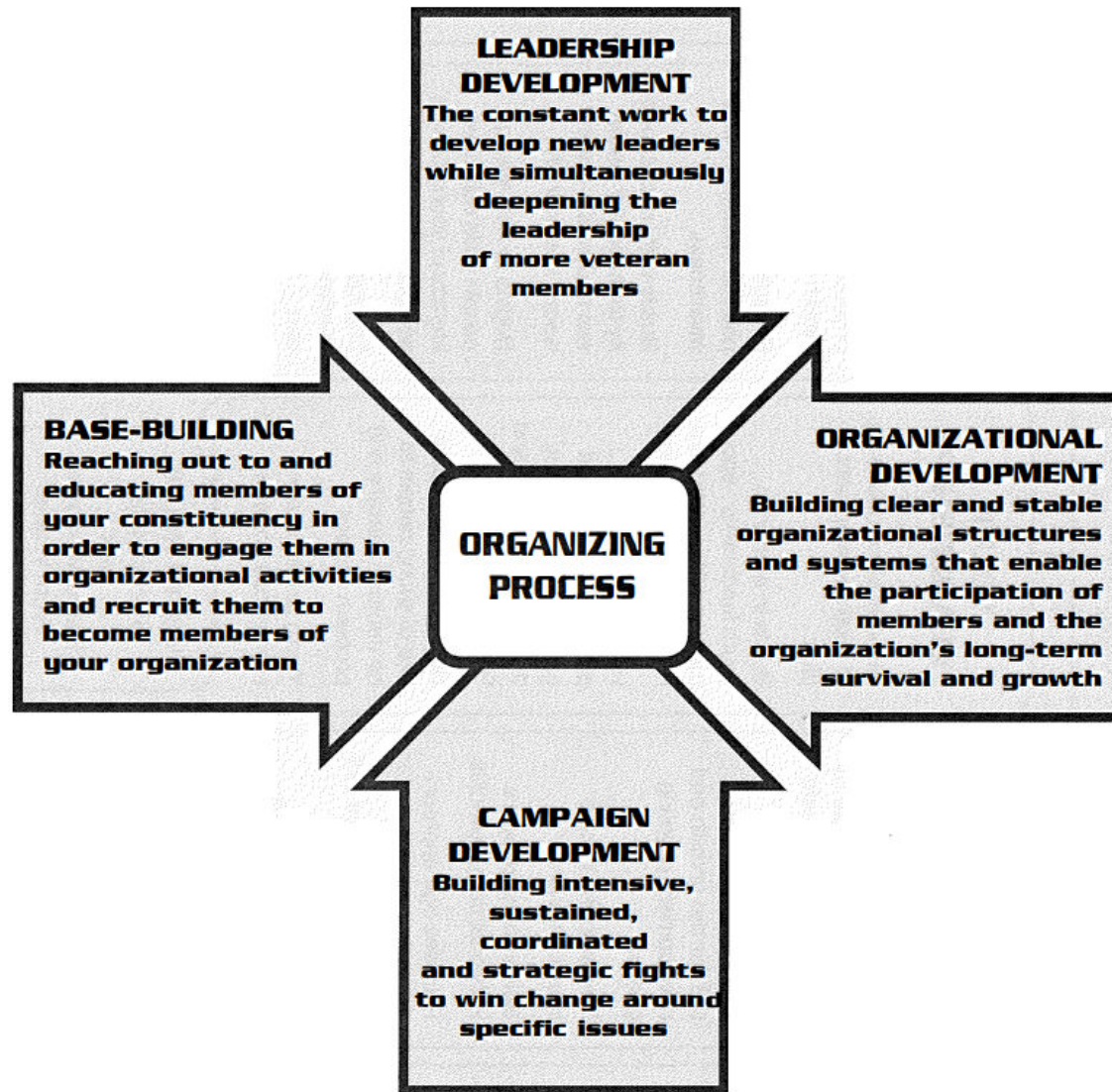
Now put your imagination on pause and rewind the tape until you get to the movement that won us this new world. Give yourself a minute to imagine it - what are people doing?



Movement Building

ORGANIZING is the process of building organizations of people to use their collective power to win changes in peoples' lives and shift the balance of power.

- A **MOVEMENT** is a large-scale sustained mobilizations of masses of individuals and organizations united in common action by a common issue or vision. Movements are bigger than any single organizations' efforts although organizations are key to developing sustainable and effective movements. For the most part, movements are united around a common issue or vision, but they are larger than any one ideology or belief system. In general, social movements draw on a wide range of tactics and methods.





Roles of Organizer

- **Build the Base**
 - Develop relationships with those who are impacted by an issue and want to create solutions.
- **Leadership Development**
 - Capacity building of members that give them the skills, knowledge, and confidence to solve the issue.
- **Campaigns**
 - Achieve changes through advocacy or policy change.
 - Coordinate our fight through various tactics.
- **Create Coalitions**
 - Focus on an issue together
 - Exercise our collective power





Win changes in peoples lives.





“If you’re not at the table
you’re on the menu.”



Build Community, Build Coalitions, Organize to WIN





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