

Advocacy Update 9/6/2018

● Website Live!

You already know Advocacy has its own Twitter Feed (@NTFBVoice) but did you know it now has it's own microsite on the NTFB web page?

It's still a work in progress but be the first to check it out:

<https://ntfbvoice.weebly.com/>

● Farm Bill Conference begins

On Tuesday, all 56 members of the largest Farm Bill Conference Committee ever, opened and each member had 3 minutes to say something. Most of the remarks centered around coming together in cooperation to get this bill done in the next 10 days. An inspiring spirit of bi-partisanship and working together. However, today, that spirit proved to be rhetoric.

Chairman Conaway told reporters that he offered "a significant compromise" and Senate Ag Ranking Member Stabenow said that compromise "wasn't even close to being something the Senate could accept."

Much of the debate centers around changing the work requirements for millions of Americans and setting up large expensive state-run programs to enroll SNAP recipients in education and training programs.

Time is ticking, as the committee has only 10 days to get the Bill wrapped up in order to get it to Trump for his signature by the Sept 30th expiration date.

Trump has said that if the bill does not contain increased work requirements for SNAP recipients, that would knock 2 million people off the program, he will not sign.

If a final Farm Bill cannot be put together, Congress has until Sept 17th to pass a Continued Resolution to prevent massive commodity and subsidy issues

● Government Shut Down

In addition to trying to confirm a supreme court nominee, the government is on the verge of a shut down. Government funding will expire Sept 30th if a spending bill is not passed. President Trump stated that if the spending bill does not contain \$1.6B in funding for a border wall between the US and Mexico, he won't sign it and the government will shut down. Trump said "if it happens, it happens"..."we have to protect our borders, if we don't protect our borders, our country is not going to be a country"

As a reminder, SNAP benefits, through mandatory funding, would not be affected, though the people who run the agencies that issue and process SNAP may be stalled. During government shutdown many federal employees do not receive a paycheck leading to their own money crises leading to hunger.

● Food Insecurity has gone down

The latest data shows that food insecurity has decreased 2016 to 2017

United States:

Households 12.3% to 11.8%

Texas

Households 14.3% to 14%

It is important to note that while food insecurity is on the decline, the rate is still higher than before the 2007-2008 recession levels.

The ERS has made some beautiful Tableau Vizzes for all you data geeks out there like me

<https://public.tableau.com/profile/economic.research.service#!/>

Full Report Here:

<https://www.ers.usda.gov/conferences/webinar-household-food-security-in-the-united-states-in-2017-sep-5-11-am-edt/>

Executive Summary Here: (Please read!)

https://www.ers.usda.gov/webdocs/publications/90023/err256_summary.pdf?v=0

● Section 32 TEFAP Bonus Buys

Thanks to Brad & Bill and the Ops team, NTFB will be receiving large bonus buys!

From the Team:

We will be getting 41 truckloads of fresh milk during the time period of October 2018-March 2019. That's going to be at least 2 truckloads of fresh milk per week.

14 loads-111004 Milk 2% Fresh Ctr. 96/64 FL. OZ. (900 cases / truckload)

13 Loads-111003 Milk Whole Fresh Ctr. 96/64 FL OZ (900 cases / truckload)

7 Loads-111008 Milk 1% Fresh Ctr. 96/64 FL. OZ. (900 cases / truckload)

7 Loads-111003 Milk Skim Fresh Ctr. 96/64 FL OZ (900 cases / truckload)

We will be getting 33.5 truckloads of frozen protein during the time period of October 2018-March 2019

6 Loads-110090 CHICKEN DRUMSTICKS FRZ 8/5 LB (950 cases / truckload)

11 Loads-110092 CHICKEN LEG QTRS FRZ 8/5 LB (950 cases / truckload)

8 Loads - 110095 CHICKEN THIGHS FRZ 8/5 LB (950 cases / truckload)

½ Load -110154 CHICKEN, SPLIT BREASTS 6/5 LB (1300 cases / truckload)

8 Loads-110880 CHICKEN, WHOLE BAG 36-43 (900 cases / truckload)

2 Loads-100159 BEEF, FINE GROUND PKG 40/1 LB (1000 cases / truckload)

The Yin/Yang: Though it this is incredibly beneficial for us and our partner agencies/clients, it's due to decreased international trade & a declining US Agriculture Market. We are full of gratitude but also sympathetic to the struggles of our US farmers

● Rural Housing Crisis

Mortgages for houses/multifamily apartment buildings that are subsidized by the US Department of Agriculture are reaching maturity. Many residents are at risk of being priced out of their homes as the property owners no longer receive financial assistance. No new USDA direct financial rental housing has been developed in years and the existing properties are losing their affordability provisions. Texas has one of the largest USDA-sponsored property markets with 670 properties and 22,713 units.

The mid-level and low-income affordable housing market in Texas already has a scary outlook and this adds another problematic layer. Mortgage and rent are fixed costs. In hard times prioritizing a place to live often comes at the expense of nutritious food. Faced with tough choices many families will seek food assistance or be forced to make tough choices on the quality and quantity of what they can afford to eat.

● Government Public Relations

State Senator Van Taylor scheduled to deliver brief remarks during the Perot Family Campus Grand Opening

City of Plano issued a City Proclamation declaring September as Hunger Action Month

Collin County City Mayors produced a video to promote the Peanut Butter Drive County Wide Meetings set with Members of Congress on September 13th in Washington DC to discuss Farm Bill & TEFAP

Wishing everyone a terrific weekend,
Val



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