

NEW YORK STATE

FOOD POLICY

A WHITE PAPER

September, 1981

NEW YORK'S FOOD SYSTEM: CHALLENGE AND OPPORTUNITY

In the years immediately ahead, the challenge of meeting the food needs of the people of New York State will become more and more critical. Inflation and rising energy costs have an unignorable impact on food prices and availability. The extent of New York's dependence on food transported from far-away places will no longer be as efficient or economically viable. These are concerns which call for the development of a common sense measure of regional diversification and self-reliance, and for a policy which entitles all of the people of New York access to nutritious food in amounts necessary to sustain good health.

The national and international food system upon which New York has come to depend for 70-85 percent of its food is undergoing changes. World demand for food from this country has tripled in the last ten years. It is now more profitable for California to send its food products to Japan rather than to the Northeast. Florida's production of winter vegetables and citrus crops is seriously threatened by energy costs, drought, and development pressure. Depletion of groundwater resources is affecting farmers in the Midwest as well.

This does not mean that all food should be produced locally. It simply means that any national food system where the average food item travels over 1,200 miles to the table is going to be strained by rising energy costs; the most serious strain will be in those places farthest from the sites of production. While farmers in New York produce tremendous quantities of milk, cheese, apples and cabbage, ten out of the 20 most important oceanborne general cargo goods imported into the Port of New York are food commodities.

The food production, processing, and distribution industry is one of New York's largest industries, employing 425,000 people in 1979¹. However, at the same time that our dependence on food from outside the state is becoming less viable, many aspects of our state's food processing and distribution industries are in need of modernization and increased energy efficiency. The production system is threatened by a loss of producers and resources. In the last 30 years, 50 percent of New York's farms have ceased operation and 25 percent of the state's best farmland has gone out of production. The U.S. Soil Conservation Service now projects New York State to lose another 25 percent of its productive capacity by the year 2000. The loss would mean, conservatively, 7,200 displaced farm families, the potential loss of locally available food to over 300,000 New York consumers, and loss of income to over 20,000 families and businesses.

WHY A STATE FOOD POLICY

Questions concerning the viability of the food system and its impact are not customarily addressed at the state level. Since World War II, the thrust has been on the development of a national farm policy by federal agencies and on corporate development of large-scale food production and distribution systems.

Past state policy and programs in the food area have focused on that part of the food system that is land-based. The recent, and continuing, growth of the state's commercial fishing industry and the growth potential of its aquacultural

¹The New York State Food Industry, Mary Stewart Law, Cornell University Publication, AERES 81-3, p. 21. This figure does not include fisheries and aquaculture, which employ an additional 15,000 people.

industry require that future efforts in the area of food policy incorporate these water-based components of the total food system.

Just as the nutritional benefits stemming from a "balanced" diet have been widely recognized and accepted, so too should the economic and social benefits to the state of developing and maintaining a "balanced" food production system be recognized and embraced. Such a system-wide balance requires the development of clear forceful policies which reflect the essential unity of the agricultural, aquacultural, and fishery subsystems, integrated with policies for processing, marketing, distribution, consumer nutrition, and food accessibility.

Advocacy for a state food policy is an attempt to be responsive to changing conditions, to develop a more sophisticated way of looking at the whole problem of food. Today, states provide little more than a regulatory function. Most communities lack the basic political and economic information and infrastructures which can positively affect their food system. Most people lack sufficient knowledge to make reasoned choices as citizens, as consumers, and as food system participants.

People in New York realize the price of dependence on foreign oil and are working to achieve a greater degree of self-reliance. The same intention and commitment are now required of us to assure the continued availability of quality food at prices that can be afforded. Important policies have been set in place which deal with aspects of this problem. Such food policy as presently exists in New York State has arisen in response to an immediate need or particular interest, in a cycle of crisis reaction. The importance of an integrative emphasis, including production, processing, marketing, distribution, food availability, and nutrition is what is new and important about a comprehensive state food policy.

As the problem of assuring food availability has become more complex and interactive, it has become critical for people from various areas of the food system, and from government agencies which impact the food system, to work together. Over the last two years, such a group of people has met to put together a set of proposals based upon their separate needs and common interests. Constituency groups representing farmers, consumers, nutritionists, public agencies, executive and legislative representatives, welfare advocates, retail merchants, processors, educators, religious leaders, environmentalists, community food activists, school food administrators, and others have worked extensively on these proposals.

To be successful, food policy must mandate a coherent program of legislative and executive actions which are coordinated at all levels of government. Federal actions should be responsive to state policy. State policy should suggest plans for the counties and municipalities to cooperatively expand diversified food economies.

Above all else, the food policy intends to inspire the public to their individual and community responsibility for revitalizing their food system. Real change can only occur to the degree that citizens and consumers assert new habits and preferences at the cash register, in the community, and in the voting booth.

GOALS

Assure the citizens of New York State an adequate and reliable supply of high quality, safe, affordable nutritious food.

Strengthen, expand, and revitalize New York's food production system. Support achievement of the state's potential as a food producer. Maintain a resource base and labor supply sufficient to the realization of that potential.

Promote the development of New York's food processing, marketing and distribution industries. Create a climate within which New York's food industry works more effectively and efficiently.

Promote awareness of the food system as a whole and the critical interrelationships between the system's social and economic components. Encourage energy conservation and use of renewable resources in all phases of the food system.

Improve the health and well-being of New York's citizens through expanded consumer skills and nutrition awareness.

FOOD PRODUCTION

New York's capacity for producing food for its people is dependent on the availability of its productive lands and waters and their capacity to sustain crops, livestock and fisheries resources over generations. The ability of food producers and harvesters to earn a livelihood is dependent on the availability of adequate capital, management and labor resources and their wise utilization of both natural and man-made resources.

Objective 1: Establish policies to support production strategies and technologies which protect or enhance environmental quality and maintain the resource base for food production.

Some recommended actions:

1. Assure the availability of information about farming practices which maintain the productivity of the resource base through Cornell University's farm research and extension efforts and the curricula of the state's agricultural and technical colleges.
2. Develop and implement strategies for maintaining a balance between residential, commercial and governmental growth and food production.
3. Recognize importance of recreational fishing in providing food for people.
4. Encourage the utilization of urban land for food production.
5. Encourage the recycling of safe organic waste products into fertilizer to improve soil for food or energy production.
6. Encourage more productive use of state-owned land for food production.
7. Encourage greater soil conservation practices through appropriate incentive program.

Objective 2.: Develop an interagency work group among agencies with responsibilities which affect maintenance of the food production resource base and agencies which have food distribution and/or nutritional objectives.

Some recommended actions:

1. Determine complementary interests and resolve competing needs of agriculture, energy and forestry, fisheries and aquaculture.

2. Reduce over-regulation wherever it adversely affects food production activities.
3. Develop a commercial fisheries policy advisory council within the Department of Environmental Conservation.
4. Create marine zones--allocate to commercial fishing, aquaculture, etc.; determine control of underwater lands for the purpose of leasing them.
5. Clarify and allocate responsibilities of state, county, town and private owners of marine waters.

Objective 3: Support the continued viability of family farming (including small, medium, and large producers).

Some recommended actions:

1. Re-evaluate state and local tax laws where they are determined to have a negative impact on families wishing to continue or begin farming and revise where the fiscal impact can be born by other tax sources.
2. Revise or create credit and other policy, including the definition of a farm for tax purposes, to be inclusive enough to facilitate entry of new farmers and expansion of existing farms.
3. Support the concept of a strong agricultural districts law and the continuation of existing agricultural districts.
4. Mandate rural road and bridge maintenance to allow continued access to farms and markets by agricultural vehicles.
5. Develop programs designed to facilitate experienced farm labor becoming new farm operators.
6. Expand farm apprentice programs under provisions of current Minimum Wage Order.
7. Disseminate information on Farm Apprentice Programs throughout Job Services and Title III-Section 303 Programs for transmittal to farmworkers.

Objective 4: Include fisheries and aquaculture along with agriculture in state policies and programs relating to the production of food.

Some recommended actions:

1. Examine factors inhibiting commercial fishing and initiate policies to facilitate development and expansion.
2. Develop a state aquaculture plan to identify aquaculture's productive and economic potential.

3. Determine whether aquaculture should be included under Department of Labor's definition of an agricultural enterprise, as is the policy of the U. S. Department of Agriculture.
4. Develop greater institutional, marketing, promotional and disease control assistance for NY fisheries products.

Objective 5: Integrate knowledge about land, water, and human resources necessary for food production into public school curricula.

Some recommended actions:

1. Evaluate and coordinate current educational programs and materials offered through Cornell Cooperative Extension, BOCES, the State Department of Education and other institutions.
2. Amend Minimum Wage Order for Farm Workers to exempt students from minimum wage coverage when obtaining supervised and directed vocational curriculum experiences.
3. Offer expanded hands-on-training programs in food production and marketing and coordinate with traditional K-12 school curricula.

Objective 6: Provide strong support for programs which develop an adequate and steady labor supply; provide inducement for hiring seasonal workers and migrant labor, before foreign contract workers.

Some recommended actions:

1. Change certification year for farm labor contractors from April through March 31 to January through December 31, to make this regulation consistent with federal practice.
2. Enable farm labor contractors to obtain a single license to cover all work in New York State during the year, rather than to register for each grower or processor, providing that the federal law requiring the registering of each job order with local Department of Labor representatives not be superceded.
3. Offer adequate educational programs for farm workers and their children concurrent with peak harvest, September 1 - November 30.
4. Teach displaced farm workers how to use and maintain new farm machine technology.

PROCESSING, MARKETING AND DISTRIBUTION

Marketing food encompasses the sale of food commodities from the farmer directly and indirectly to the consumer. Distribution is the movement, usually by either truck or rail, of food commodities from the farmer directly or indirectly to the consumer.

Milk, fruits, vegetables, grains, meat, fish and poultry are either sold as fresh products or are purchased by companies called processors, manufacturers and packers, that create a finished food product ready for sale to the consumer. Most food products undergo some form of processing, including packaging, to meet consumer needs for longer shelf life, "ready to serve" and "convenience" foods, health and safety regulations and differences in dietary preferences.

Wholesalers buy food products from processors/manufacturers and sell them to retail food merchants. The retail food industry then sells the food commodities to consumers. In many states, this is complemented by alternative marketing channels which directly link the producer with the consumer, such as farmers' markets and co-ops.

Objective 1: Encourage the growth of existing and new food processing industries, including new facilities for seafood processing, through tax considerations and through lower interest rates for industry expansion and new development.

Some recommended actions:

1. Maintain the existing system of county economic development agencies and encourage private and cooperative investment to maintain and expand county and regional processing capabilities.
2. Encourage tax incentives for processing and manufacturing businesses to renovate aging plants and equipment, especially around the New York City area.
3. Improve NYS Investment Tax Credit structure to encourage food industry expansion at all levels.
4. Support continued exemptions under sales and use tax for manufacturing/processing firms.
5. Support continued funding for NYS Job Incentive Programs.

Objective 2: Develop more competitive technologies in the food processing and manufacturing industries.

Some recommended actions:

1. Improve computerization, controlled storage and other modern technologies for processing and warehousing.
2. Encourage improved production efficiency through the utilization of renewable energy resources, energy conservation and waste recycling.
3. Develop cost-effective, nutritionally beneficial, processing techniques.
4. Increase dissemination of information about new technologies throughout the food industry.

Objective 3: Maintain existing and develop new avenues of marketing for a wide variety of state-grown food products to greater amounts of consumers.

Some recommended actions:

1. Encourage the identification and promotion of New York food products by producer groups, wholesalers, and retail merchants.
2. Provide adequate funding for NYS Dept. of Agriculture's marketing support for NYS food products.
3. Make consumers aware of the impact of their food purchasing choices on local production, and the availability of local land and water resources.
4. Increase consumer knowledge of seasonality's effect on food supply, availability and price.
5. Revise state bidding policies for institutions to encourage wholesale purchase of local foods.
6. Encourage county governments to monitor outflow of food related dollars from their area and to what extent that outflow could be reduced through their support of different economic development strategies.
7. Improve the purchasing and marketing mechanisms of existing producer and consumer cooperatives
8. Expand export markets for N.Y. food products which are in great supply or which N.Y. consumers eat only in limited quantities (e.g., European markets for specialty fish caught within 200 mile limit).
9. Promote cooperative economic development and marketing projects with other New England states.

Objective 4: Evaluate the impact of regulations and enforcement responsibilities upon the food processing, marketing and distribution system; examine the opportunities for deregulation.

Some recommended actions:

1. Increase support for small and medium scale food processing industries.
2. Increase the number of milk licenses in New York City.

Objective 5: Encourage local responsibility for food supply through community planning, self-reliance programs, and regional interdependence. Advocate the development of links between urban and rural areas and among adjacent towns or counties which increase meaningful and beneficial cooperation, planning and coordination necessary for the development of integrated local food systems.

Some recommended actions:

1. Encourage the establishment or continuation of county or area offices for community food and nutrition.
2. Encourage and support community development and land use planning which recognizes and gives priority to urban and community food production, such as community, school and home gardens.
3. Encourage and assist local organizations, businesses and institutions in purchasing direct from local farmers and processors.
4. Encourage and coordinate local community groups in the establishment of networks for emergency food supplies, child and infant feeding, nutrition education, community gardens.
5. Encourage and assist the establishment and growth of consumer food cooperatives, especially in neighborhoods or regions not adequately served by the existing marketing system.
6. Promote programs that assist low income families and farm workers in raising small livestock, fish and vegetables for their own consumption and local cooperative marketing.

FOOD QUALITY AND NUTRITION

The availability of adequate nutrition is an interactive process including policies of state and local governments, community organizations and individual consumer choices. Adequate nutrition for New York State citizens requires policies that assure optimal food quality and a diversified supply of food products at a price that is profitable for food producers and affordable by citizens. The quality of food is at an optimal level when the food can healthfully sustain all consumers. In a modern food system consumers require an understanding of the effects of their choices on the viability of local production and processing and the health of the resource base.

Objective 1: Review, evaluate and improve standards concerning the safety and nutritional quality of food.

Some recommended actions:

1. Establish a Commission on Food Quality, made up of representatives of consumer groups, New York State Department of Health, New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets, growers, farm laborers, manufacturers and other appropriate organizations, to review existing standards and nutritional goals/guidelines of government agencies and provide suggestions for improvement.

Objective 2: Strengthen the system that monitors the nutritional quality and safety of the food supply as provided to private and public institutions and group feeding programs throughout the state.

Some recommended actions:

1. Support the existing monitoring tools currently used by the Department of Agriculture and Markets.
2. Coordinate the existing monitoring tools used in programs such as child caring facilities, adult institutions and community feeding programs.

Objective 3: Educate the children in New York State to become knowledgeable consumers so that they understand better the relationships between food, nutrition, physical and mental health.

Some recommended actions:

1. Require a three-credit course in nutrition education for all elementary and appropriate secondary school teachers.
2. Provide funds to continue and /or augment a state-wide network of nutrition education and training coordinators and other networks.
3. Coordinate all health and nutrition related activities in governmental programs, inclusive of but not limited to W.I.C., food stamps, Nutrition Education Training, breakfast and lunch and nutrition for the elderly, with public and private agencies, such as Cornell Cooperative Extension and Dairy Council.

Objective 4: Require that all health care professionals, registered, licensed or certified by N.Y.S. have food and nutrition training.

Some recommended actions:

1. Require a three-credit course in food and nutrition from an accredited college or university for registration, licensure, or certification.
2. Require health professionals who are registered, licensed, or certified and who have not taken a three-credit hour course in food and nutrition in an accredited college or university be required to take a continuing education course in food and nutrition.
3. Provide funds to assist colleges, including medical and dental schools, in the development and coordination of food and nutrition courses with minimum established standards.

Objective 5: Educate the consumers of New York State to make food selections which are economical, which take advantage of locally produced foods, and which are supportive of health and well-being.

Some recommended actions:

1. Improve consumer skills through the development of media programs geared for all age groups, using readily available written materials for the lay person.
2. Encourage public and private agencies, organizations and institutions to offer community programs at convenient times in accessible places.
3. Motivate grocery stores, libraries and restaurants to develop and implement programs to enhance consumer food and nutrition education and food use skills.
4. Enhance consumer knowledge of food quality and safety in the following areas: food production, including farming and home gardening; food transportation; food selections; food preservation and storage; and food preparation.

SUGGESTED FOOD SYSTEM RESEARCH

Objective 1: Develop a clearinghouse for food-related research on-going in the state.

1. Establish a task force to survey all government and private agencies where food and nutrition dissemination services exist, formulate costs, determine the present usage, and forecast the need for a central clearinghouse to coordinate food and nutrition research and education in New York State.
2. Examine current research funding priorities to determine areas needing additional funding and to encourage support from private and other public sources.
3. Review those agencies and institutions with jurisdictions and responsibilities which affect maintenance of the food production resource base and the effectiveness of the processing, marketing and distribution system to enhance closer coordination.

Objective 2: Identify the components of the resource base necessary to support optimal food production.

1. Identify current farm production, including food, fiber, energy and forest.
2. Support the present inventory (in use and potential) by the U.S. Soil Conservation Service and the Agricultural Advisory Committee in the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets of prime and unique farm lands, including those of statewide and local importance.
3. Inventory available data on fishing stocks and identify optimum sustainable yield for commercial fisheries, where sufficient information on species stock is available.
4. Inventory marine waters and adjacent uplands; prioritize according to suitability for aquaculture.
5. Identify trends toward, and causes of, diminishment in resource supply (historic and projected).
6. Support the inventory of sources of water pollution (current and potential) by the Soil Conservation Service and the Department of Environmental Conservation.
7. Inventory New York non-land production resources: fertilizer, feed, machinery, energy.
8. Encourage more research on the utilization of crops or waste biomass for energy, in light of its impact of food production and economic development policies, such as is currently being done by New York State Energy Research Development Authority on cheese whey.
9. Assess the extent to which the application of toxic substances affects the capability of the food production system.

Objective 3: Encourage small and large-scale diversified production and long-term productivity of the resource base, such as:

1. Biological farming practices as recommended by USDA and conversion from conventional to long-term organic farming systems.
2. Integrated pest management for all types of crops and farming systems.

3. Cultural practices and plant varieties that maximize disease and insect resistance and minimize use of fertilizers and pesticides.
4. Food research on native plant and animal species.
5. Diversification of existing farms which requires low capitalization and debt.
6. Diversified and vertically integrated small farming and marketing systems; e.g., organizing regional food economy networks between small producers, manufacturers, wholesalers, retailers, and consumers; cooperative grading and distribution; energy efficient small-scale storage facilities for fresh market produce; and small-scale cheesemaking, fruit drying, canning and freezing, and other food processing and preservation systems.
7. Agricultural use of clean sewage sludge and other municipal wastes; i.e., composting of leaves, neighborhood organic waste composting.
8. Alternative energy uses on the farm that also maintain or enhance soil tilth and productivity.
9. Inland aquaculture production, disease control and marketing.
10. Extending the growing/marketing season through choice of crops, storage, greenhouses, coldframes, etc.
11. Investigate workers compensation and unemployment insurance programs relative to agriculture for ways to make them more supportive of all scales of food production.
12. New York consumer food demand (quantity, types of food, price levels, levels of processing) to identify potential markets for expanded food production.
13. Food imported to New York State; determine which could be produced locally and whether food could be produced which would be adequate substitutes for other imports.
14. State agencies which should be more involved in the development of marketing support for NYS products.

Objective 4: Improve industrial processing and preservation techniques and:

1. Improved computerization, controlled storage and other modern technologies for processing and warehousing.
2. Encourage improved production efficiency through the utilization of renewable energy resources, energy conservation and waste recycling.
3. Develop cost-effective nutritionally beneficial processing techniques.

Objective 5: Improve the health and well-being of consumers through more effective nutritional distribution and food purchasing choices.

1. Investigate the link between nutrition and the physical, emotional and mental health of consumers.
2. Examine the relationship and interaction among alcohol, drugs and nutrients.
3. Determine the extent of comparability between the effect of a substance on animals and its effect on humans and the definitions of toxicity.
4. Research the relationship between soil quality and nutrient levels of food.
5. Examine the use of diet and nutrition as health maintenance measures.
6. Determine how adults and children learn food behavior habits.
7. Examine food distribution systems within communities to determine the degree to which they meet the needs of consumers.

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HISTORICAL OVERVIEW OF THE N.Y.S.
FOOD POLICY DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

October 3, 1975: N.Y.S. Assembly creates a Task Force on Farm and Food Policy.

Dec., 1975: Agricultural Resources Commission on the Dept. of Agriculture and Markets publishes A Basis for Developing a New York State Food Policy.

March, 1977: N.Y.S. Assembly publishes, Kids, Food and Television: The Compelling Case for State Action, after public hearings.

June, 1977: N.Y.S. Assembly sponsored conference on "Are There Food Shortages in our Future." This conference voted to establish a Northeast Task Force for Food and Farm Policy. Assemblyman Maurice Hinchey became its Chairman in September 1977.

July, 1977-June, 1979: Cornell University Cooperative Extension Home Economics agents and Consumer Economics and Nutritional Science faculty develop and use educational materials to raise public awareness about food policy issues in various counties and provide nutrition training to new Nutrition Education Training (N.E.T.) coordinators in the public school system.

Sept., 1978: Conference on Coalition of Religious Leaders and Concerned Laity on Food Policy, Valatie, N.Y.

January, 1979: Stanley Fink, Speaker of the N.Y.S. Assembly, designated the Task Force as a Subcommittee on Food, Farm and Nutrition Policy--with its goal being to develop a comprehensive state food policy which will assure every consumer in New York informed access to quality food at affordable prices.

April, 1979: Conference on "New York State Agriculture and Food Supply: Organizing for Self-Reliance," in Syracuse, N.Y.

August, 1979: Conference in St. Lawrence Co. on "Prospects for a Revitalized Regional Food System," in Canton, N.Y.

October, 1979: Conference on Emergency Food for the Northeast Region co-sponsored by Northeast Task Force for Food and Farm Policy, New York State Subcommittee on Food, Farm and Nutrition Policy, World Hunger Year, Inc., Peace and Justice Commission of the Albany Diocese, and New York City Food and Hunger Hotline, in New Paltz, New York. Agreement reached in workshop on need for a group in New York State that would represent all constituencies of the state's food system to support food legislation and encourage greater public awareness about the state's food system.

November, 1979: The Subcommittee on Food, Farm and Nutrition Policy published educational papers on "Who will Feed New York Residents Five, Ten, Fifteen Years from Now? The Need for a Food Policy," and "Public Participation in Statewide Food Policy-making Processes in New England States."

March, 1980: Workshops on state and regional food policy at Conference on "Dollars and Sense: A Hard Look at the Economic Future of Up-state New York," in Ithaca, New York.

December, 1979: Formation of the New York State Food Coalition, Inc.

January - May, 1980: Regional meetings held in New York City, Albany, Canton, Rochester, and Syracuse. A Statement of Purpose was developed which said, in part:

"All people are entitled to have access to nutritious foods in amounts necessary to sustain good health at a cost which is affordable. No persons should suffer the ravages of hunger. No one should go hungry because they are without money, they are too old, too young, too ill, too incapacitated to secure a proper diet for themselves. Food is a basic human right, and events, programs and policies which promote this right deserve our complete support.

March, 1980: The N.Y.S. Food Coalition formed a Food Policy Subcommittee to discuss the state of the art and a draft process.

April, 1980: Fourteen private and public organizations co-sponsored with The Agricultural Project of the Conference on Alternative State and Local Policies, a conference on Seeds of Change: Building a New York State Food Policy, in Albany, N.Y.

April, 1980: Publishing of N.Y.S. Assembly Subcommittee on Food, Farm and Nutrition Policy 1980 Report on New York's food system and the need for a basic state food policy.

May, 1980: Meeting in Syracuse, N.Y., to discuss relevance of a N.Y.S. food policy to Central New York.

July 15, 1980: N.Y.S. Food Coalition sponsored first general meeting of people willing to participate in the development of a N.Y.S. food policy. Speakers were Dr. Gilbert Porter from Agway, Inc. who spoke on "New York's Food System and Its Future Needs" and Arthur Schiff, Staff Director of the Assembly Subcommittee on Food, Farm and Nutrition Policy, spoke on "Urban Consumers and Their Relationship to New York's Food System." Four workshops were formed: Food Production and Resource Supply; Processing, Marketing and Distribution; Food Quality and Nutrition; and Food System Structure.

September 30, 1980: Second General Meeting met after workshop groups developed first draft of policy recommendations.

November 6, 1980: Formation of an independent N.Y.S. Food Policy Steering Committee to take over leadership responsibilities from the N.Y.S. Food Coalition.

November 25, 1980: Third General meeting to review food policy recommendations revised by workshop groups.

December 9, 1980: Steering Committee.

January 13, 1981: Steering Committee

February 19, 1981: Mailing of N.Y.S. Food Policy recommendations with cover letter from Hon. Rhoda S. Jacobs, Chairperson of the N.Y.S. Assembly Subcommittee on Food, Farm and Nutrition Policy.

February 25 - May 5, 1981: Period for public comment.

April 7, 1981: Steering Committee

April 13, 1981: Steering Committee

April 20, 1981: Editing Subcommittee

April 27, 1981: Editing Subcommittee

May 5, 1981: Steering Committee

June 18, 1981: Steering Committee

June 30, 1981: Cornell University faculty meet with Steering Committee

July 6, 1981: Editing Subcommittee

July 21, 1981: Steering Committee

July 27, 1981: Editing Subcommittee

August 19, 1981: Steering Committee meeting.

September 22, 1981: General Meeting

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