

2015 Annual Report

Building sustainable food and farming systems through policy advocacy and on-the-ground programs that create more resilient family farms, communities and ecosystems



Leading the Nation with Climate Smart Agriculture

Thousands of family farmers

CAFF is the leading organization that defends the rights of thousands of family farmers. During 2015, we co-sponsored SB 367, a bill that promotes climate-friendly agricultural practices. The bill proposes a dual impact: producing climate benefits while better preparing farms to manage the effects of drought and climate change.



Assisting Farmers with Food Safety and Water Management

650 growers

During the past year, we held workshops to connect over 650 growers with the information, resources, and technical expertise necessary for understanding and practicing more sustainable on-farm water management and food safety practices.



Increasing Access to Local Produce

400 schools and hospitals

CAFF works with school food service staff throughout the state to coordinate their efforts to buy from local farmers. In 2015, CAFF also expanded its Farm to Hospital work, partnering with another organization to increase local produce purchasing and awareness in Sacramento-area hospitals, in addition to the hospital systems we already work with in the San Francisco Bay Area. Overall, CAFF is currently working with 400 schools and hospitals.



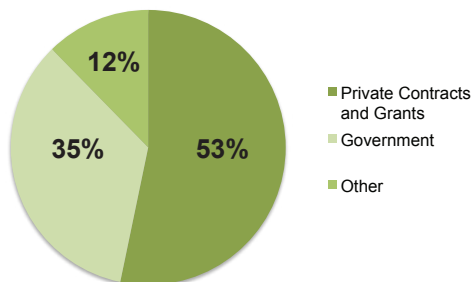
Advancing Community Health and Nutrition

225,000 students and patients

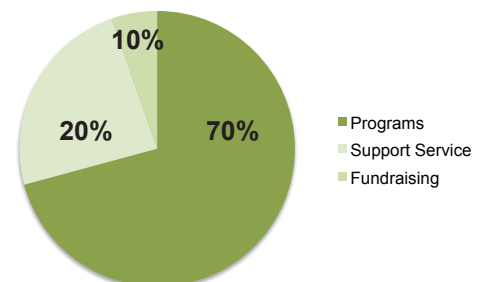
CAFF's community involvement focuses on increasing access to and education about healthy, local food grown by family farmers, including the significant work we do to assist California schools and hospitals. Currently, CAFF currently serves up to 225,000 students and patients throughout the state.

Financials

Income: \$1,625,896



Expenses: \$1,603,284



COMMUNITY ALLIANCE WITH FAMILY FARMERS

CAFF is a nonprofit organization with the mission to build sustainable food and farming systems through policy advocacy and on-the-ground programs that create more resilient family farms, communities and ecosystems.

CAFF has been working with family farmers to generate change and build better food and farming systems for nearly 40 years. **Farming is challenging.** Despite the recent increased public interest for buying more healthy food, California farmers still face an uphill battle to survive economically. Our approach is to work directly with the many regions and touch points in the food system, including production, distribution, agricultural policy, and consumer awareness, through creating and fostering innovative solutions that can be replicated statewide. CAFF has the ability to improve family farms and food systems through constantly analyzing the state landscape to understand what growers and communities most need. Through our work, we are catalysts to institutionalizing major changes within California food systems.

REGIONS

CENTRAL COAST

NORTH COAST

REDWOOD COAST

SACRAMENTO VALLEY

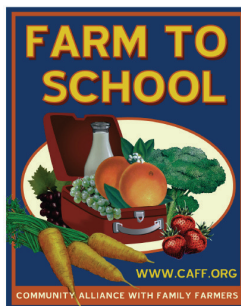
SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA

SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY

SANTA CLARA VALLEY

PROGRAMS

FOOD FOR YOUR FAMILY



Farm to School/Hospital

- Harvest of the Month Tasting Kits
- Local Sourcing / Procurement
- Farm to School Network and FoodCorps

These programs educate students and communities about healthy eating and local agriculture. Often the initiatives focus on low-income schools and communities, increasing fresh food access points by assisting school and hospital food service staff with local food procurement.

Students, teachers, patients, staff, and the wider community benefit from fresher, healthier food, and learn about local producers through targeted marketing and educational materials. The programs also include cafeteria promotion and professional development/training for food service staff. CAFF also co-leads the CA Farm to School Network and is the co-host of CA FoodCorps.

VOICE OF THE FARMER

Policy

CAFF has been advocating for family farmers in the California legislature for close to 40 years. We continue that work today by focusing on the most pressing food policy issues of our time, including climate change, water usage, direct marketing regulations, and food safety. We focus on state and federal policies, defending the rights of family farmers, as well as educating them about new policies that affect their farms.

TOOLS FOR THE FARMER



Farm to Market Tools and Services

- Marketing and sales tools
- Resources and templates
- Assistance in production planning and connecting to buyers
- Buyer/seller mixers
- Assistance with sales calls
- Food safety plan development and education about food safety regulations and GAPs
- CAFF has also helped develop several aggregation hub projects and studies

This program develops sales connections, provides marketing services, and eliminates typical barriers standing in the way of farmers bringing their products to market.

Climate Smart Agriculture

CAFF's long history of assisting farmers with on-farm biodiversity includes the BIOS program, building hedgerows, and teaching about integrated pest management. Currently, this program is working with growers to help them learn to farm with more sustainable water practices.



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