

## **Questions for Candidates 2020: COVID-19 Addendum**

*COVID-19 and the resulting market disruptions have led to new challenges that any candidate must be prepared to address if elected if they are to support the local food community. In recognition of this, the CFSA policy team has created a special COVID-19 insert with questions to ask candidates for local, state, and federal office about how they would respond to the unique issues raised by the pandemic. This insert is meant to be an addition to the [2020 Questions for Candidates](#) rather than a replacement.*

### **Local Level**

- Municipalities and counties across the Carolinas have scrambled to figure out how to work innovatively with local organizational partners to fill the gaps in their local food chains during the pandemic emergency. What would you do to ensure our community's food system is resilient, equitable, and benefits all of our residents and workers during both emergency and non-emergency times?

### **State Level (NC and SC)**

- Farmers' direct-to-consumer sales avenues, such as farmers markets, farm-to-table and agritourism, have been decimated by COVID-19. Would you support a new grant-based state program to help move direct-to-consumer farm sales online?
- The existing Coronavirus Food Assistance Program provides for federal relief funds for farmers impacted by COVID-19 across the country. The program does not, however, currently provide a payment mechanism for farms relying on a direct-to-consumer business model. If Congress is unable to pass an additional stimulus package, what role does state government play in providing needed relief to our state's farmers?

### **Federal Level**

- The existing Coronavirus Food Assistance Program provides for federal relief funds for farmers impacted by COVID-19 across the country. The program does not, however, currently provide a payment mechanism for farms relying on a direct-to-consumer business model. Do you support the creation of an alternative COVID-19 relief payment program for farmers who sell in local and regional markets based on their historic revenue?
- Farmers' direct-to-consumer sales avenues, such as farmers markets, farm-to-table and agritourism, have been decimated by COVID-19 and face new challenges with bagging, boxing, distanced delivering, and additional health precautions. Do you support



providing emergency response grants for farmers markets and local food enterprises to implement public health protections and COVID-19-compatible marketing practices?

- Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) farm communities are already disadvantaged and hurt disproportionately by COVID-19. Do you support targeted aid to help them recover?
- Would you support federal funding that would allow local farms and food vendors to accept SNAP online?