

Iowa Nutrition Network and Iowa Senior Hunger Partnership

Partner Responses to COVID-19 Challenges in Iowa

04.27.20

1 to 3 p.m.

- **Welcome** and instructions for the virtual meeting - Doris Montgomery, Iowa Nutrition Network (IA Dept. of Public Health)

Over 50 partners connected to the call. Names and agencies were reported via chat box.

- **Department of Human Services, IA Food Assistance and TEFAP - Kari Lind and Jen Sherman**
 - Food Assistance - Pandemic Response (document provided)
 - Online Purchasing Pilot (document provided)
 - On DHS website-Amazon and Walmart doing some advertising. Walmart stores that have online delivery and pickup are included in program. Benefits cannot be used to pay for delivery charges. Pilot was in place prior to COVID and will be ongoing.
 - Iowa COVID19 Multilingual Hotline-One page. (document provided) This is not a Food Assistance resource; shared from Refuge Alliance
- TEFAP commodities
- **Iowa Commodity Groups**
 - **Beef - Rochelle Gilman**
 - Providing education to consumers on beef products they are buying. See website for recipes -[Beef: It's what's for dinner](#). Ground beef sales have soared. The website has [cooking lessons](#) with tips and cooking methods for each cut and recipes for various cuts. Zinc is one of the many nutrients that help build immune system.

- Doing more with [affordable beef cuts](#) – will help families extend their food dollars. More link are provided at the end of this document.
 - Nutrition tab has continuing education resources for professionals, webinars and learning opportunities for CEUS from the Academy.
 - More requests for how to buy directly from farmers. Processing is variable because of increased interest. Locker appointments full; may not have available slots until October.
 - Questions about food safety - not aware of any risks from food or food packaging.
- **Dairy - Erin Hoisington**
- Partnered with Kum and Go to offer free cheese sticks and water to customers coming into stores
 - Panic Buying of Milk, there was no supply issue and had to have the conversations with grocers
 - Buying coolers for school grab and go lunches, help with meal planning
 - Covid19 grant funds- \$3000 in funding for PPE, milk, food service, etc. Rolling grant.
 - Community relief grants to purchase rolling coolers for food pantries/food banks.
- **Egg - Nancy Macklin**
- Egg demand has increased up to two to three times.
 - Egg industry trying to get more to stores since most of Iowa eggs are used commercially rather than as whole eggs to consumers.
 - Iowa egg farmers have started euthanizing flocks.
 - Conversion of commercial supply to retail outlets has many challenges but all the commodity groups are trying to adapt as quickly as possible.
- **Pork - Joyce Hoppes**
- Recipes on [Pork.org](#)

- LifeLong Links call center is very busy. (866) 468-7887
- Senior Farmers Market Coupons - the checks will go forward this summer
- **Iowa Department of Education - Patti Delger**
 - School Meals- can provide meals under the summer food service program under the USDA. Since schools are closed they are not able to provide food under the National School Lunch program. Available until June.
 - Waivers have allowed greater flexibility during the crisis. Received support from dairy farmers.
 - [Summer Food Service Program](#) This webpage includes a map and a listing of all sponsors that have been approved to provide meals under SFSP due to unanticipated school closures related to COVID-19. Sponsor webpages and social media will include serving locations and times.
 - CACFP Waivers- flexibility for child care, can provide grab and go meals for families like the school.
- **Iowa Healthiest State - Aryn McLaren**
 - [Double Up Food Bucks](#)
 - Would like to obtain state funds to expand program using model similar to Fareway's. The Hy-Vee pilot is on hold.
- **Iowa State University Extension - Christine Hradek and Sarah Francis**

SNAP-Ed, EFNEP, Spend Smart. Eat Smart. – Response to COVID-19

 - Contact Christine at Hradek@iastate.edu for virtual nutrition education. She will connect you to a local educator.
 - ISU Answer Line is still open at
 - Iowa Concern Line - Financial Coaches
 - [Finding Answers Now](#)
 - [Spend Smart Eat Smart](#) - a lot of great resources for people making meals at home, particularly food in your pantry. At-home physical activity videos too!
 - Iowa Food Assistance (SNAP) Outreach to Older Adults

- The WIN guide was printed and distributed to older adults with meal delivery through the Area Agencies on Aging.
 - “Quickinars” are being developed by ISUE nutrition specialists.
- **Iowa Department of Public Health**
 - **WIC - Nikki Davenport**
 - Adapting to COVID by providing in-person visits online or via phone through May 31st.
 - **SNAP-Ed and Farm to School - Suzy Wilson and Doris Montgomery**
 - Farm to School and Early Care Conferene has been postponed until June 2021. In its place will be a [Farm to School and Early Care webinar on June 19 from 1:00 – 3:00](#).
 - As COVID isolation continues, community contractors are providing more virtual experiences and resources for SNAP-Ed; expect some virtual learning will continue once social distancing is lifted.
- **Other Program Updates**
 - Congratulations to Doris on her retirement!!!! Doris’ last day is May 29th.

Resources to share after INN and ISHP partnership meeting

1. [USDA news update 4.17.20](#)
 The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced a new program created to provide direct support to farmers and ranchers, while supporting food banks, food pantries, and other nonprofits. Of the \$19 billion in this relief program, \$16 billion will support farmers and ranchers, and \$3 billion will be provided for local distributors and others who support the food distribution process. The funding will purchase fresh produce, dairy, and meat, and will be delivered in pre-packaged boxes to nonprofits. Distributors are asked to submit applications that include how they will reach various communities, such as rural populations and tribal nations, and which nonprofits they will partner with.
2. Videos from the U of Iowa
 Doris- here are some videos that my department has been working on...new languages added all the time....They are intended for folks who might not have strong reading skills or process information better this way
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCH2vIK71NAtudX20TImdrVg>
3. Iowa Beef Council Resources:
 Visit [Beef. It's What's For Dinner.](#) www.iabeef.org

Recipe collections: <https://www.iabeef.org/recipes>

Cuts: <https://www.beefitswhatsfordinner.com/cuts>

Budget Friendly Steaks and Roasts:

<https://www.beefitswhatsfordinner.com/cuts/collection/33335/affordable-beef-cuts-for-families>

Health Professional Resources – complimentary webinars

<https://www.beefitswhatsfordinner.com/nutrition/health-professional-resources>

4. The Iowa Cancer Consortium is seeking information from our partners on resources available and resources needed for our communities and patients. We are also interested in hearing about community needs regarding the transitioning of programs and services to a virtual format. Use this link to share your resources or needs. <https://canceriowa.org/resources/covid-19-community-needs/>