

A vibrant assortment of fresh produce is displayed against a dark background. The items include a bunch of green basil leaves, a whole ear of yellow corn, several colorful bell peppers (red, yellow, and orange), a cluster of red tomatoes, a small bunch of strawberries, and a head of green broccoli. The produce is arranged in a dense, overlapping manner, creating a rich and healthy visual. The text is overlaid in a bright yellow color, making it stand out prominently.

***GOAL:***

**Promote and use  
Florida produce in  
schools and  
workplaces**

A vibrant assortment of fresh produce is displayed against a dark background. The collection includes leafy greens like basil and lettuce, a whole ear of yellow corn, a red bell pepper, a yellow bell pepper, a large orange bell pepper, a head of green broccoli, a red tomato, a green cucumber, a purple eggplant, and several strawberries. The items are arranged in a dense, overlapping cluster.

**Let's take a look  
at Florida's  
Purchasing  
Requirements...**

# State Purchasing Requirements

A collection of fresh vegetables including basil, corn, cucumber, bell peppers, tomatoes, and broccoli.

- Florida purchasing regs require State and County Agencies to bid any purchase larger than \$25,000
- Agencies are not allowed to cut multiple \$25,000 purchase orders annually to one vendor from one fund source



# Purchasing Volume for Collier County

Lunch for 40,000 Students

1 serving of strawberries =  
40,000 ½ cup servings  
20,000 1 cup servings  
10,000 pint servings



**5,000 Quarts  
@ \$4.00 per quart  
= \$20,000**

# Possible Solution:

A collection of fresh vegetables and fruits arranged on a light-colored tiled surface. The items include a bunch of green basil leaves, a yellow ear of corn, a green cucumber, several red and yellow bell peppers, a red onion, and a head of green broccoli. The background is dark, making the produce stand out.

- Increase the current annual purchase order limit of \$25,000 to the federal limit of \$100,000
- Make this change only for districts to purchase locally grown fresh produce

A vibrant assortment of fresh produce is displayed against a dark background. The items include leafy greens, a whole ear of corn, a red tomato, a yellow bell pepper, a green bell pepper, a purple onion, a head of broccoli, a red apple, and a strawberry. The produce is arranged in a cluster, with some items in the foreground and others slightly behind.

**Let's take a look  
at the Florida  
Produce  
Industry...**

A vibrant assortment of fresh vegetables is displayed against a dark background. In the foreground, there are several large bell peppers in shades of yellow, orange, and red. Behind them, a whole ear of yellow corn, a red tomato, and a head of red onion are visible. To the left, there are large green leafy vegetables, possibly basil or spinach. On the right, a head of green broccoli is partially visible. The vegetables are arranged in a cluster, creating a rich and colorful scene.

**Most small farmers have  
no way to deliver their  
produce to schools.**

**(Collier County has 50  
schools)**

A vibrant assortment of fresh vegetables and fruits is displayed against a dark background. The produce includes large green leafy vegetables, a whole ear of yellow corn, several red and yellow bell peppers, a green bell pepper, a head of red cabbage, a head of green broccoli, a dark red apple, and a bunch of green grapes. The items are arranged in a dense, overlapping cluster.

**Most of the large  
farmers already have  
signed contracts for  
their produce.**

**Example:**

**Vlasic Pickles**

**Hunt's Tomatoes**

**Large grocery store chains**

A vibrant assortment of fresh vegetables is displayed against a dark background. The collection includes a head of green lettuce, a whole ear of yellow corn, several red and yellow bell peppers, a green bell pepper, a bunch of green beans, a head of red radicchio, a head of dark green broccoli, and a large orange bell pepper in the foreground. The vegetables are arranged in a dense, overlapping pile.

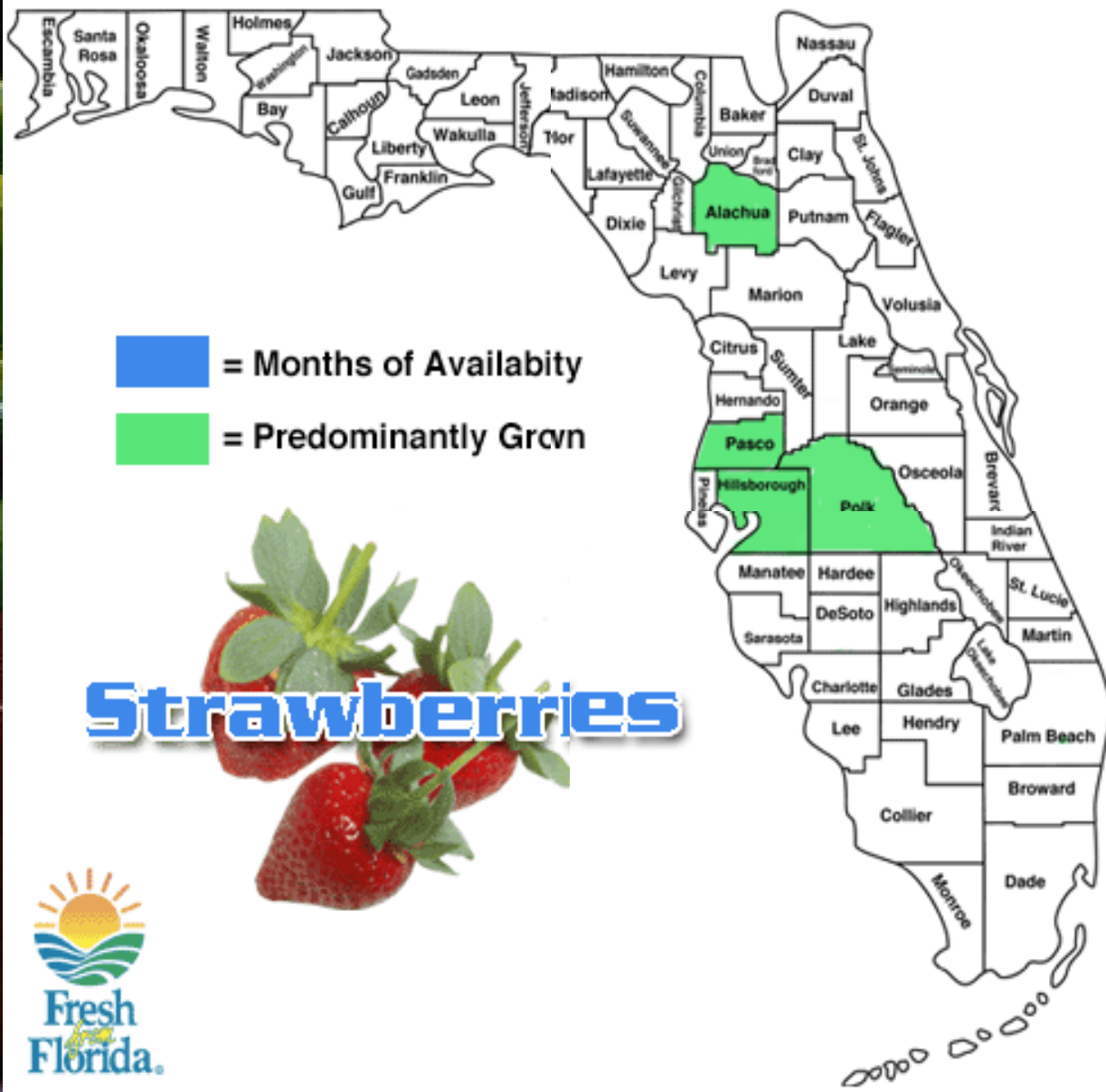
- ***Growing Seasons are limited***



Crops are in supply during limited months of the year.

- ***Growing Areas Vary***

Crops are in supply only in certain growing areas.


JAN FEB MAR APR MAY JUN JUL AUG SEP OCT NOV DEC



 = Months of Availability  
 = Predominantly Grown

# Strawberries



A vibrant assortment of fresh produce including leafy greens, corn, bell peppers, tomatoes, and broccoli. The produce is arranged in a dense, overlapping pile, showcasing a variety of colors and textures. The background is dark, making the colors of the vegetables stand out.

**The menu planner must  
plan specific produce  
for specific months.**

**This is not a concern  
with produce purchased  
from other states.**

A vibrant assortment of fresh vegetables and fruits is displayed against a dark background. The produce includes large green leafy vegetables, a whole ear of yellow corn, several green cucumbers, a red bell pepper, a yellow bell pepper, a green bell pepper, a large orange bell pepper, a head of green broccoli, a red tomato, and a bunch of green beans. The items are arranged in a dense, overlapping cluster.

**Commercial food distributors travel to counties in Florida.**

**They could return with local produce instead of an empty truck.**

# Liability

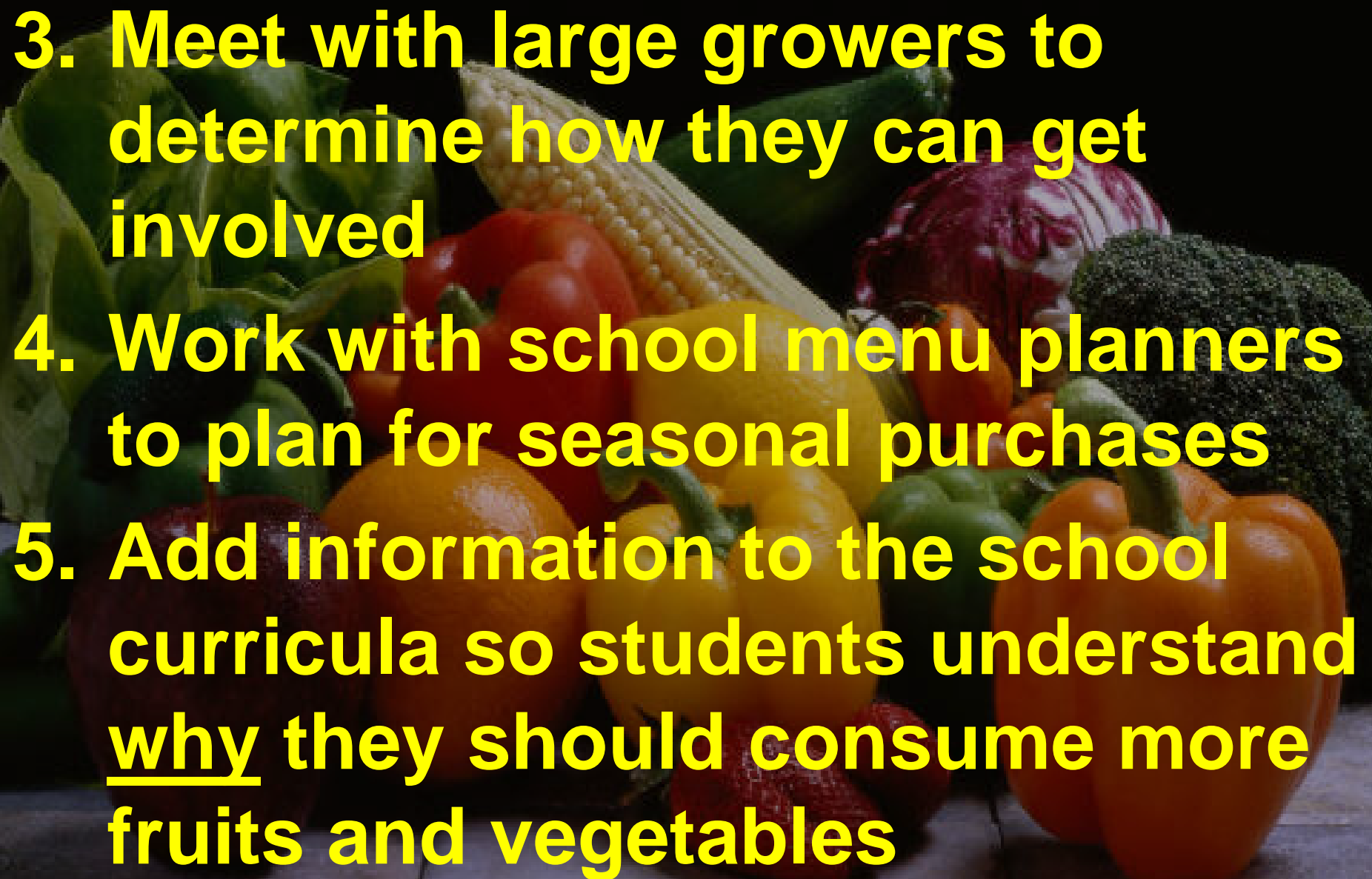
A collection of fresh vegetables and fruits, including green basil leaves, a yellow ear of corn, a green cucumber, several red and yellow bell peppers, a red onion, and a head of green broccoli, arranged on a light-colored surface.

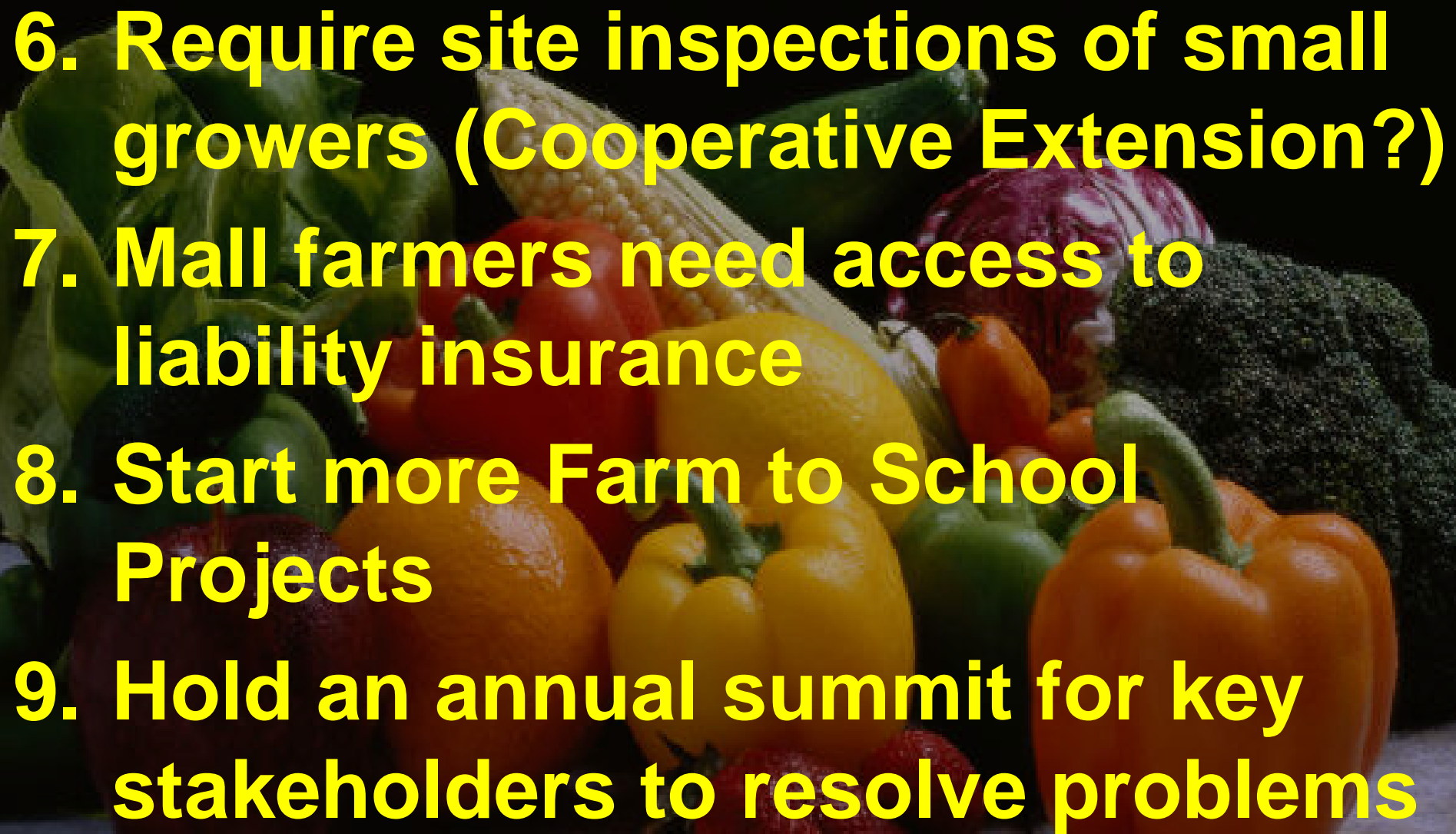
- 1. If there is a problem with food safety, who is liable?**
- 2. Most produce vendors carry liability insurance**
- 3. Most small farmers do not have liability insurance**

# **Before We Can Be Successful:**

A vibrant assortment of fresh vegetables and fruits is displayed against a dark background. The produce includes a bunch of green basil leaves, a yellow ear of corn, a green cucumber, a red and white striped onion, a head of green broccoli, several red and yellow bell peppers, a green bell pepper, a red tomato, and a bunch of strawberries. The items are arranged in a cluster, with some overlapping, creating a rich and colorful scene.

- 1. Florida needs to increase or eliminate the cap on produce purchases**
- 2. Find a way to help small farmers distribute produce within counties and to other counties in Florida**

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- A vibrant assortment of fresh produce is displayed against a dark background. In the foreground, there are several large, bright orange and yellow bell peppers, a red tomato, and a few strawberries. Behind them, a whole ear of yellow corn on the cob is visible, along with a head of red onion and a large head of green broccoli. The lighting highlights the textures and colors of the vegetables, creating a rich and appetizing scene.
- 3. Meet with large growers to determine how they can get involved**
  - 4. Work with school menu planners to plan for seasonal purchases**
  - 5. Add information to the school curricula so students understand why they should consume more fruits and vegetables**

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- A collection of fresh vegetables including corn, tomatoes, bell peppers, onions, and broccoli. The vegetables are arranged in a pile, with some in the foreground and others in the background. The lighting is bright, highlighting the colors and textures of the produce.
6. Require site inspections of small growers (Cooperative Extension?)
  7. Small farmers need access to liability insurance
  8. Start more Farm to School Projects
  9. Hold an annual summit for key stakeholders to resolve problems

# Who Are the Key Stakeholders?

- FL District Food Service Directors
- FL Department of Agriculture
- FL Department of Education
- IFAS – Gainesville (Extension Agents)
- Florida Fruit and Vegetable Growers Assn
- Florida Tomato Growers
- Farmers Market Staff
- Florida Fresh2U Staff
- FAMU Statewide Farm Programs
- Farm to School Program Staff
- Farm to School Pilots in North Florida and Sarasota

**Please feel free to add to this list !**

A vibrant assortment of fresh fruits and vegetables is displayed against a dark background. The produce includes leafy greens, a corn cob, a red tomato, a yellow bell pepper, a red bell pepper, a green bell pepper, a red strawberry, a red apple, and a head of broccoli. The text is overlaid in a bold, yellow font.

**Now what is  
happening with the  
Child Nutrition  
Programs at the  
National Level?**

A vibrant assortment of fresh produce is displayed against a dark background. The items include a whole ear of yellow corn, several colorful bell peppers (red, yellow, green, and orange), a large red tomato, a head of green broccoli, a bunch of green leafy vegetables, and several strawberries. The lighting highlights the textures and colors of the food.

**U.S.D.A. requires all  
foods served in the  
Child Nutrition  
Programs to be raised  
or grown in America.**

# The Pending National Farm Bill



- Provides an additional \$50 million annually for the purchase of fruits and vegetables for school meals
- Increases the overall Section 32 fruit and vegetable purchase minimum to \$2.75 billion over 10 years
- Requires a survey of foods purchased by school food authorities with Federal cash assistance once every 5 years



- **Effective for the 2008-2009 school year, beginning July 1, 2008, authorization has been provided by the 2008 Omnibus Appropriation Act for \$9.9 million to expand the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable program to all states.**
- **The Office of Food and Nutrition Management, Florida Department of Education will soon establish criteria for 25 schools in Florida to participate in this program.**

# Institute of Medicine Recommendations for the Child Nutrition Programs

- At the same time our committee recommended the adoption of the Institute of Medicine's recommendations for the National School Lunch Programs, the same thing was happening at the National Level
  - The National School Nutrition Association (SNA) formed a committee to look at the possible impact of the IOM Medicine recommendations
  - SNA came out with a list of concerns and recommendations and are still gathering additional comments from members. While SNA is not opposed to the IOM recommendations, and liked the idea of national nutrition standards, they want to assure that standards that are developed will be realistic – for instance:
1. There is no national standard (RDA) for sodium intake, especially for children and adolescents.
  2. Is the science that clear on artificial sweeteners addressed in the IOM?
  3. Will the government commodities meet these standards?
  4. Does juice need to be full strength?
  5. Why don't we look at calories for sugar rather than grams?
  6. Should there be a range for carbohydrates?

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**Needless to say, if we are going to accomplish the recommendations we made in the Governor's Council on Physical Fitness "State Plan of Work", the Nutrition sub-committee has our work cut out for us !**