



Santa Barbara County Food Action Network

# EMPOWERING CONNECTIONS, NOURISHING COMMUNITIES



By supporting SBCFAN, you're contributing to impactful, community-centered programs that fuels change and builds a resilient, equitable future for everyone in Santa Barbara County. Now more than ever, we need you to help ensure our local food system and its economy can adapt and thrive.



## MISSION

The Food Action Network works to connect, advocate, and build capacity with a network of food system actors to foster an equitable and robust local food economy, a healthy and just community, and a well-stewarded, resilient foodshed.

## VISION

We envision a future for California Central Coast where locally grown, nourishing, and culturally relevant food is accessible to all; where equity, sustainability, and wise practices are championed; where both local food businesses and workers thrive; and where our communities share in the responsibility of fostering economic, physical, and environmental resilience.





Very few are willing to defy convention, but at Santa Barbara County Food Action Network (SBCFAN), we embrace that challenge. We know that real change requires taking calculated risks, and even with limited resources, we are transforming the local food system. With your support, we can push further, strengthening our policy advocacy, community connections, and building lasting resources that will sustain for generations.

Think about the potential: expanding into areas of the food system previously untouched, creating more opportunities for positive impact. We have already seen so much success on the micro-level, demonstrating what's possible through inspired action.

SBCFAN brings together individuals from all corners of the food system — **from production to regional supply chain, to healthcare and nutrition, to policy makers and regulators, to researchers and eaters** — to collaborate as teams and drive change directly in their communities. Through resource sharing, distribution, and strategic partnerships, we ensure that funding and resources are directed to and informed by the communities that need them most. Our successes are not just local wins; they serve as prototypes for positive food system change in practice and policy.

We need partners like you to take this work to the next level. SBCFAN is prepared to take the risks and lead this transformation; all we ask is that you come along on the journey. Your pledge of support helps us build a food system that's fair, resilient, and sustainable.

Together, we can catalyze change. Will you join us?

Shakira Miracle  
Executive Director

To learn more about  
the programs listed  
here, visit  
[SBCFAN.org](http://SBCFAN.org)

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# HISTORY

## 2016

The landmark Santa Barbara County Food Action Plan was published. This comprehensive strategic plan evaluates and offers recommendations on how the county can enhance the ways it grows, distributes, consumes, and disposes of food. The plan is structured around these key pillars:

- o Investment in the Food Economy
- o Health and Wellness
- o Community
- o Foodshed

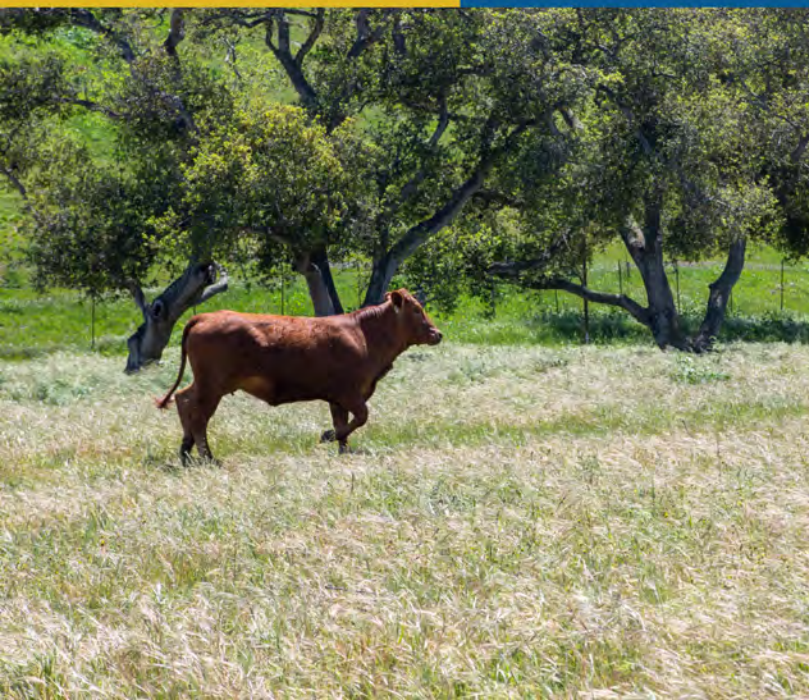
## 2019

In Fall 2019, the Santa Barbara County Food Action Network (SBCFAN) was founded to ensure the Food Action Plan's effective implementation and to promote access to, knowledge of, and collective responsibility for building a resilient countywide food system. Since then SBCFAN has been advancing the goals set forth in the plan and supporting a more sustainable and equitable food system across the county.

## 2024

SBCFAN's leadership completed a strategic planning process, resulting in a comprehensive strategic plan for 2024-2026. This plan reaffirms the organization's mission, vision, and values, while establishing three core strategic priorities:

- o Network Sustainability
- o Advocacy
- o Regional Infrastructure





# IMPACT

By supporting SBCFAN, you're contributing to impactful, community-centered programs that fuels change and builds a resilient, equitable future for everyone in Santa Barbara County.

## Empower a Resilient Food System

Through adaptable practices, SBCFAN supports a regional food system that remains resilient during times of disruption. We empower individuals and communities to thrive, building connections that reinforce local food security and sustainability.

## Strengthen Community Connection

SBCFAN champions fair wages, worker and owner stability, and more connected and resilient communities. Strengthening communities ensures that every individual has a stake in a healthy food system, promoting a shared responsibility that benefits everyone.

## Advance Food Equity and Access

By advocating for systemic changes within the current centralized food systems, SBCFAN builds capacity with the region's most marginalized communities to build and sustain their food security. This work dismantles barriers to equitable food access and ensures that every person has the opportunity to enjoy nutritious, locally sourced food.

## Champion Community-led Innovation

Our support for creative, people-centered solutions fosters a sustainable approach to food sovereignty that benefits local ecosystems, communities, and economies. By championing innovative practices, we enable communities to lead their own food solutions, strengthening connections that drive sustainable progress.

## Invest in Local Food Infrastructure

Through the development of food hubs, processing facilities, local procurement, and efficient distribution networks, SBCFAN enhances regional food systems and builds community wealth. This investment in local infrastructure not only creates jobs but also fosters intergenerational stability, resilience, and connection within communities.



Agriculture is Santa Barbara County's largest producing industry with a gross production value of about **\$1.876 billion**



“Community-based efforts, like those of the Small Farmer Rancher Fisherfolk Forum and the Santa Barbara County Food Action Network, significantly advance the USDA’s mission by forging direct, impactful connections and addressing the real-world needs of those most impacted by our programs. As a regional food system network, this area exemplifies how local actions can drive meaningful change.”

— Jennifer Lester Moffitt  
United States Department of Agriculture





“All of this progress came from support from SBCFAN. We have been able to build the structure of the partnership for the pilot program, pursue additional funding opportunities, and nurture new connections.”

– Shelby Wild  
Route One Farmers Market



# MEAT PROCESSING HUB

Imagine this: thriving local meat production, where food processing supports a resilient, sustainable future and provides new opportunities to people who have faced challenges. SBCFAN is turning vision into reality with the launch of our innovative meat processing social enterprise.

## VISION

Santa Barbara County and the greater Central Coast has long needed a local USDA certified facility. Currently, farmers must send their livestock away, increasing costs and environmental impact. A new facility will address this gap, bringing meat processing closer to where livestock are raised, benefiting local farmers and reducing carbon footprint.

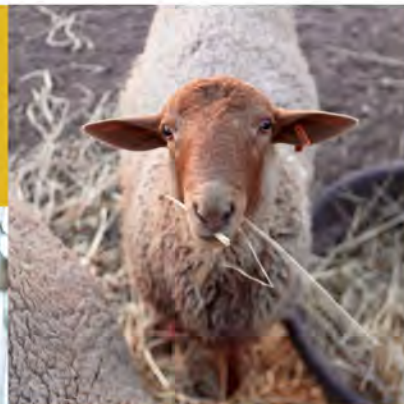
This vision goes beyond just processing meat. This opportunity will transform lives. Through our program, individuals in the marginalized and economically deprived Lompoc area will earn professional credentials that will open doors to stable, meaningful employment.

96%

of livestock producers would use a facility in Santa Barbara County

30

USDA trained and certified workers each year





# EMERGENCY AID & FOOD JUSTICE

Throughout the Central Coast, dedicated workers keep our local food system running —farmworkers, food service and grocery workers, market vendors, and many others. They often find themselves without support in times of crisis. What’s more, the centralized food system has caused a gap in critical resources and infrastructure for the local food system. These programs provide funds to those in need while also empowering communities to address food inequity and build long-term resilience.

## VISION

Imagine a world where the essential workers who sustain our local food system are never left to face emergencies alone—whether due to natural disasters, economic challenges, or personal crises. In this vision, communities have the power and tools to shape their own food systems, ensuring that everyone has access to the nourishment they need while honoring their unique needs and cultures. This future prioritizes agroecology, sustainable and restorative farming practices, enhanced biodiversity, and ecological balance. A food system that supports these principles, meets today’s needs and safeguards the health of our planet for the future.

9

recipients  
across Santa  
Barbara  
County



\$40,000 awarded



# COMMUNITY KITCHEN ONLINE HUB

Every kitchen can be a beacon of hope, innovation, and resilience—a place where “imperfect” food is repurposed into nourishing meals, local entrepreneurs thrive, and culinary education flourishes. This vision is becoming a reality with the Santa Barbara County Food Action Network’s Community Kitchen Online Hub and the Santa Barbara County Community Kitchens Toolkit.

## WHAT ARE WE BUILDING?

Our Community Kitchen Online Hub is a groundbreaking platform that connects individuals and organizations with kitchens across Santa Barbara County. These kitchens, located in all different spaces—commercial restaurants, religious institutions, nonprofits, schools, and government buildings—serve as pivotal community resources.

To support the effectiveness of these kitchens, we developed the Santa Barbara County Community Kitchens Toolkit. This comprehensive toolkit is a treasure trove of resources designed to assist kitchen owners, operators, and foodservice professionals. Our goal is to make good use of these previously underutilized kitchens. By equipping owners and users with valuable resources, we empower them to make the most of their facilities and drive positive change around them.



20

active kitchens in  
the hub



“This Community Kitchen is at the heart of my business model: bringing together my passions for local agriculture and health and well-being. By working with local farmers, using seasonal and local produce, I create vibrant juice for my customers who are seeking a healthy way of eating and living.”

— Kimberly Zimmerman  
The Juicy Life

# COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE

Co-launched and co-convened by SBCFAN, the Central Coast Resilient Food Systems Community of Practice (CoP) mobilized over 100 regional members to successfully submit a petition advocating for the inclusion of local food systems in Uplift Central Coast's Regional Plan. This plan will shape future funding decisions for economic development across the six counties of the Central Coast, ensuring that regional food systems receive the investment needed to foster sustainability, job creation, and equity.

## VISION

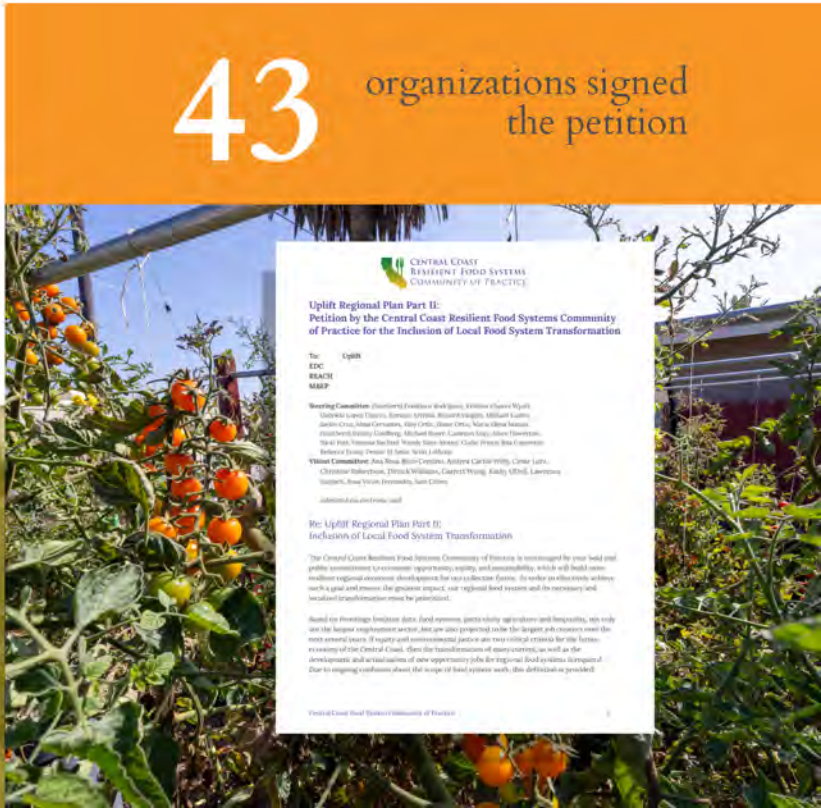
Can you see a future where the Central Coast's local food systems—agriculture, hospitality, and food-related industries—are thriving hubs of innovation, equity, and sustainability? Through coordinated efforts, small and mid-sized producers will have access to infrastructure and resources they need to prosper, creating high-quality jobs while reducing environmental impact. The Central Coast will serve as a model of resilience, where a healthy, just, and localized food system feeds its people, promotes economic opportunity, and attracts investment that benefits everyone, from farmworkers to consumers.

7

page plan  
& petition



43 organizations signed the petition





Santa Barbara County Food Action Network  
Red de Acción Alimentaria del Condado de Santa Bárbara

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Support lasting  
change in our food  
system — donate to  
SBCFAN today.



The Santa Barbara County Food Action Network is a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, Tax ID #87-1266678.