



**New England
Farmers Union**

SIX STATES WITH ONE VOICE
AT THE NATIONAL TABLE

The Food Safety Modernization Act

Impacts on Local Farms & Resources

Roger Noonan, President

www.newenglandfarmersunion.org



New England Farmers Union

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Committed to the economic viability of New
England's family farmers and fishermen.

Legislation – Education - Cooperation



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Roger Noonan, President NEFU

Owens and operates diversified
organic family farm.



Growing Consumer demand for local foods has reached a tipping point, developing into a strong mainstream trend over the past decade and creating a structural competitive shift in the U.S. food industry.

Rabobank AgFocus Feb 2013

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Local Products now account for up to a quarter of retail fresh produce offering and sales are expected to continue to expand over the next five years

Rabobank Agfocus Feb 2012

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Buying local makes an impact

Direct farm to consumer sales account for nearly
\$ 8 billion dollars of sales.

And demand is rising...



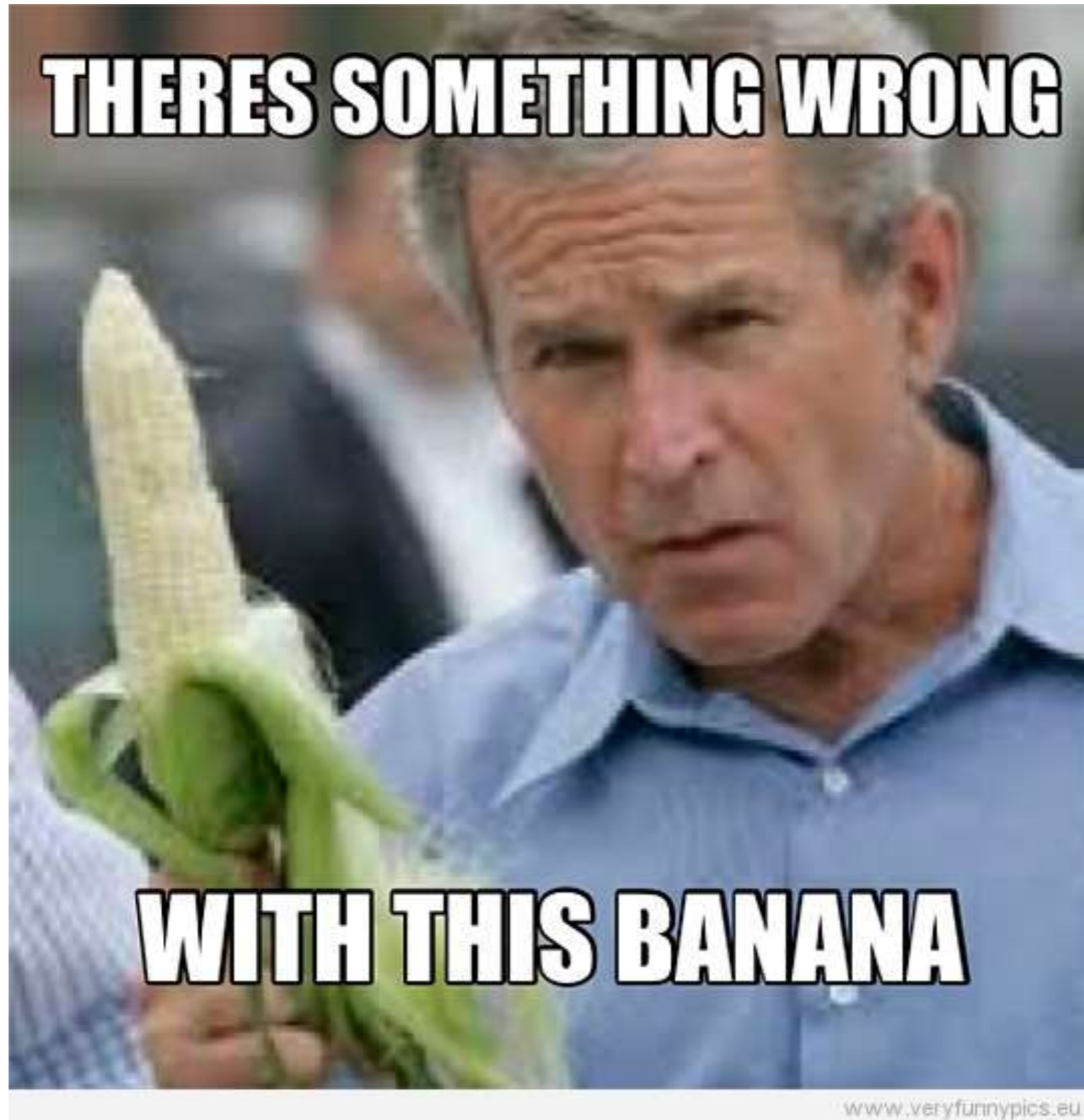
Local Foods Displace Summer Business of growers and shippers in California

- Some western growers report a 10-15% drop in sales during the summer months.

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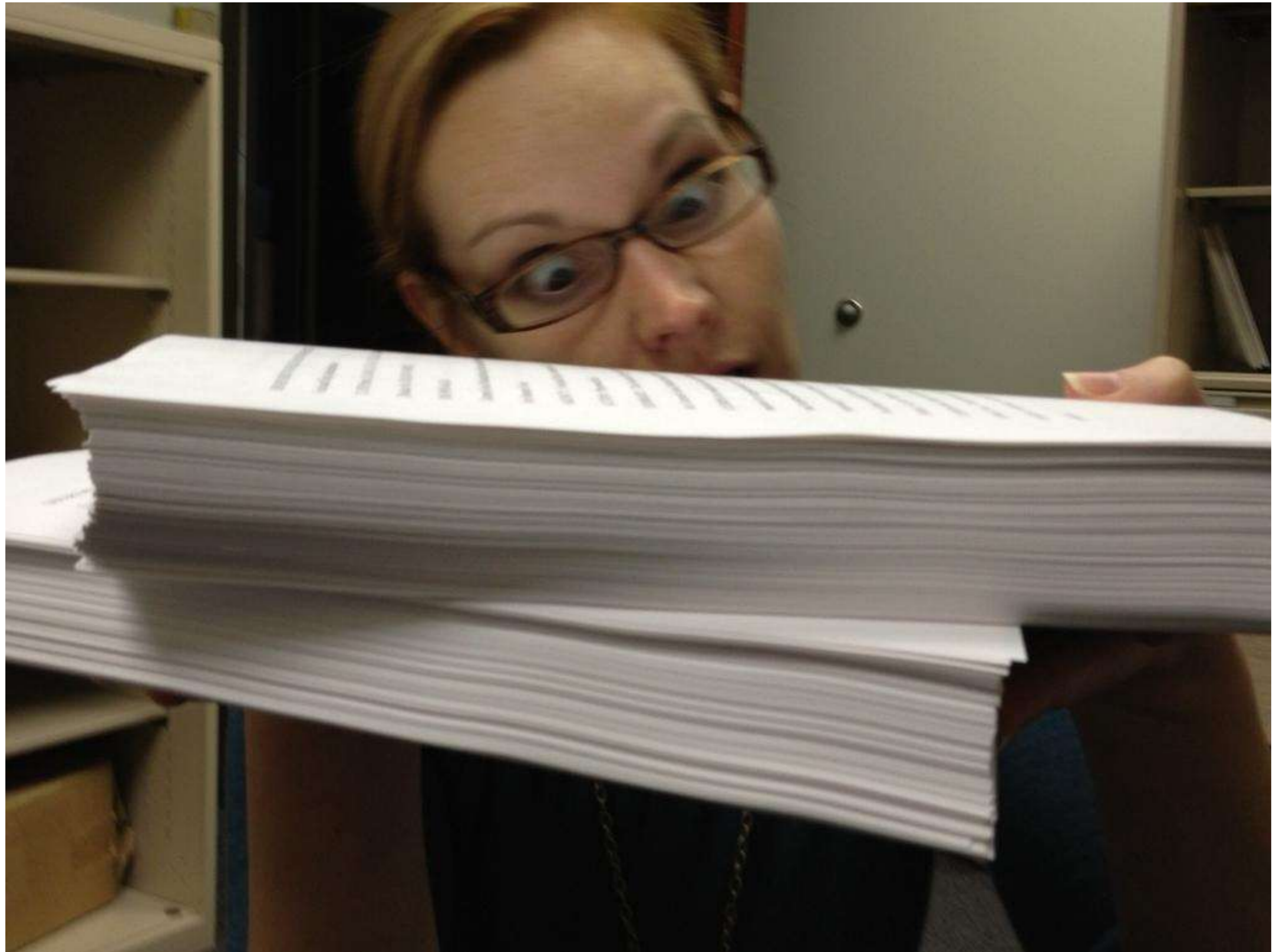
Action Needed to be taken!



And the Food Safety Modernization Act was signed into law Jan 4, 2011



It represented just a little light reading...



We ask for clarity and redefinition of terms

**Farm is defined under FDA's organizing principles as :
Growing and harvesting its own Raw Agricultural
Commodities (RACs) and preparing them for use as food.**

**This definition makes a farm that aggregates RACs from other
farms or further processes its own RACs become a mixed
type facility and triggers even more regulatory burden under
the preventive controls rule**

Ownership is referred to often but not defined.

What about cooperative ownership?

We ask that the FDA conduct an Environmental Impact Assessment

**The proposed Produce rule likely have a significant impact
on our environment.**

**Increased use of ground and public water resources
Increased use of synthetic fertilizers
Increased stockpiling of manure and composting**

**The FDA concedes the cost of compliance will likely put
some farms out of business.**

**The farms that represent our best stewards of our soil and
water resources may convert their land to other uses
potentially further increasing the environmental impact of
this rule.**

FSMA creates a significant regulatory burden for small businesses and burdens public

The costs of compliance are disproportionately borne by smaller farms.

Small farms will have restricted access to expanding markets

Increased demands will be made on public resources:

- NRCS & SWCD increased demand for applicable conservation practices**
- Land Grant Universities and Extension Service increased demand for research to support Alternatives and Variances**



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Thank You!
Questions?