

*“When a political system fails to give large numbers of men the freedom it has promised, then they are willing to hand over their destiny to another political system. When the existing machinery of peace fails to give them any hope of national prosperity or national dignity, they are ready to try the hazard of war. When education fails to teach them the true nature of things, they will believe fantastic tales of devils and magic. When their normal life fails to give them anything but monotony and drabness, they are easily led to express themselves in unhealthy or cruel ways, as by mob violence. And when science fails to furnish effective leadership, men will exalt demagogues and science will have to bow down to them or keep silent.”*

*–Henry Wallace, former Vice President and Secretary of USDA*

# Childhood Obesity Conference

## Farm to Fork: Moving from theory to Practice

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# Numbing numbers...

- 925 million people suffer from under-nutrition or hunger
- 2 billion people world wide suffer from nutritional deficiencies, such as insufficient vitamin A, iodine, iron, zinc, and folate.
- Vitamin A deficiency annually claims the lives of almost 670,000 children under the age of five.

# 16,000 humans die each day...

- Iron deficiency anemia during pregnancy is associated with 115,000 deaths each year, accounting for 20% of total maternal deaths.
- Under-nutrition is the underlying cause of the death of 3.5 million mothers and children under the age of five each year, and approximately 200 million children currently suffer the irreversible effects of chronic under-nutrition
- Children experiencing malnutrition do not achieve optimal growth, have heightened vulnerability to illness and suffer from diminished cognitive development.

# On the home front...

- Malnutrition is not limited to developing countries. In developed countries, half of those over 75 in hospitals are thought to be nutrient-deficient, as are many obese people.
- Approximately 49 million people in the United States, including 17 million children live in households struggling to put enough food on the table (food insecure).
- One-half of all children will participate in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (previously known as the Food Stamp Program) at some point during their childhood, including 90% of African-American children.
- A study in the Journal of the American Dietetic Association found that the 2005 Dietary Guidelines market basket would require a low-income family to devote 43% to 70% of their food budget to fruits and vegetables.

# Negligence, Incompetence...Indulgence

- A lack of dollars and cents...no common sense
  - 40% of harvest is lost in developing countries before it gets on the plate
  - Over 25% is thrown away in developed countries after it's on the table
  - 22 feeding programs in CA...no efficiencies
  - California ranks 50<sup>st</sup> place in SNAP utilization
  - California ranks in the bottom 10 of school lunch utilization
  - California leaves @ \$4 billion on the table...

100 years ago...the poet/philosopher  
Gillett Burgess said...

*“If in the last few years you haven't  
discarded a major opinion or  
acquired a new one, check your  
pulse. You may be dead.”*

# Ag Vision...New Solutions

***“You can’t depend on your judgment...when your imagination is out of focus”***

Mark Twain

Know Your Food, Know Your  
Farmer...

Know Your Century!

(...we're not in Kansas anymore)