



Which is best March Madness team remaining?

SPORTS, 9A

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ANALYSIS

Trump funding cuts axed nutrition program



SNAP-Ed taught people how to identify healthy food patterns, keep food safe and navigate a complex food environment. It also taught low-income Americans how to improve their budgeting and planning for meals that balance cost and nutrition. GETTY IMAGES

SNAP-Ed saved money, helped Americans eat healthier

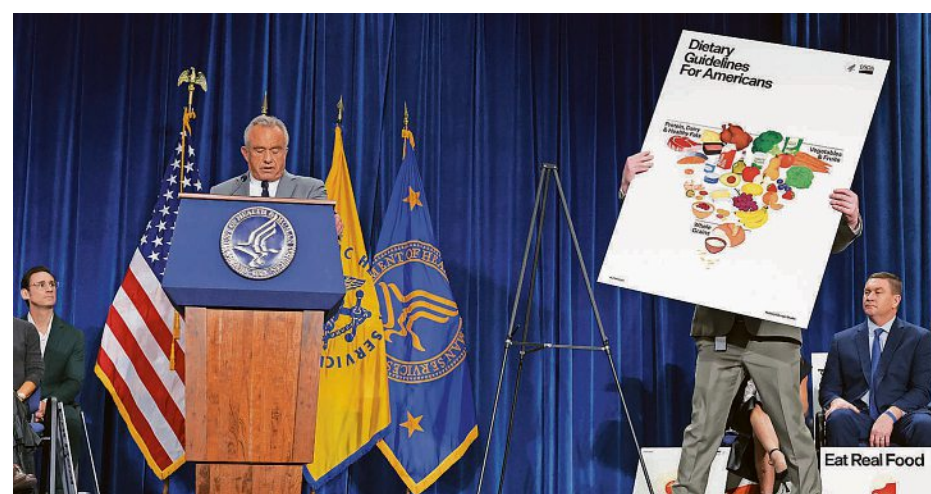
Diane Cress
Wayne State University
THE CONVERSATION

If the government had found a way to save \$10 for every dollar it spent helping low-income people get healthier, wouldn't it make sense for it to keep doing that?

Well, that's exactly what the U.S. government did when it piloted the SNAP-Ed program in 1977. This U.S. Department of Agriculture program persisted for nearly 50 years until the Trump administration shuttered it in 2025.

SNAP-Ed served as the nutrition education arm of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, which helps more than 40 million Americans buy groceries.

SNAP-Ed complemented SNAP by teaching people who get those benefits how best to use that government assistance. It paid for nutrition educators to teach lessons at schools, community centers and university extension offices. The educators led grocery store tours, taught label reading and budget comparisons, and taught cooking classes. And they offered a mix of printed and



Secretary of Health and Human Services Robert F. Kennedy Jr. and the Make America Healthy Again movement have embraced a core principle: Healthy habits prevent chronic disease. Yet the Trump administration stopped funding SNAP-Ed, which helped boost health in at-risk communities.

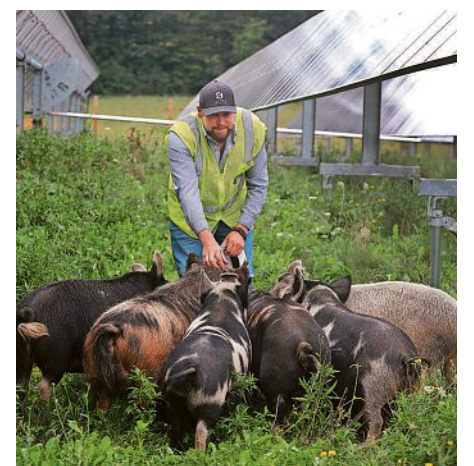
ANNA MONEYMAKER/GETTY IMAGES

online resources to support good nutrition in the home.

While the federal government fully funded the program, the states, along with Washington, DC, and Puerto Rico, administered and implemented SNAP-

Ed through local community programs, often partnering with nonprofits. It cost only one penny for every SNAP dollar spent, and it worked.

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Caleb Scott is greeted by pigs at a solar field in Lansing, New York. Scott, after several failed attempts at moving land beneath solar panels, brought in his pigs and sheep to do the job. JAMIE GERMANO/ROCHESTER DEMOCRAT AND CHRONICLE

Poultry could help land under panels

NY farmer will test vision
for clearing solar fields

Thomas C. Zambito
New York State Team
USA TODAY NETWORK

Caleb Scott spent years convincing folks that his pigs and sheep do a better job clearing the land beneath solar panels than lawn mowers and weed whackers.

Could chickens and turkeys be next?

"Why stop at pigs?" said Scott, a farmer and shepherd from the upstate New York town of Caroline. "Why not pasture poultry?"

Yes, why not? There's already something called a chicken tractor, which keeps chickens cooped and safe from predators while they move about a field, pecking away at weeds and grass.

The state of New York is putting up \$750,000 to find out if Scott's vision for teams of poultry peckers and other innovations could work for farmers across the state.

It's an attempt to bridge the divide between those who want to maintain the state's agricultural land and those who want to add more clean energy to the grid so New York can become less reliant on fossil fuels.

Between 2012 and 2022, about 14% of the state's farms and 9% of its farmland were lost, the steepest declines in decades, according to a report by New York State Comptroller Thomas DiNapoli. Nearly 2,000 acres were being used to generate solar power as farmers cashed in offers of thousands of dollars an acre from solar developers.

Upstate towns balked, enacting moratoriums on solar farms and pursuing litigation to stop more development.

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