

## Food Policy for Food Justice: Water Justice

# 10

As the media hype around the Flint Water Crisis wound down, the focus shifted to the safety of public drinking water throughout Michigan and lauding charities for collecting and distributing bottled water to Flint residents. A lot of effort is being put into band-aid approaches that do not solve the root cause of the problem. Meanwhile, Flint's children continue to be poisoned every time they drink, bathe or brush their teeth with tap water.



Although a better alternative than drinking poisoned tap water, flooding the City of Flint with bottled water is not the solution. For one, the

company in the world, (is allowed) to pump up to 400 gallons of water per minute before that feed Lake

## Food Policy for Food Justice: Food Justice, Food Workers and a Living Wage

# 4

August 2014



In May 2014, the Michigan Legislature passed a bill increasing Michigan's minimum wage to \$9.25 an hour by 2018. Most likely, this decision was made to undercut the Democratic Party's statewide ballot initiative to raise the minimum wage to \$10.10 an hour. While raising the minimum wage is a step in the right direction, it ignores the larger issue of a living wage in the food industry.

## Food Policy for Food Justice: Women of Color & The Fight for Food Justice



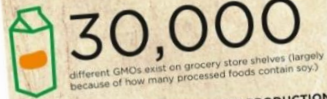
"Women, historical creators of knowledge in agriculture and food, continue to produce 80% of food in the poorest countries, are currently the main guardians of biodiversity and crop seeds, being the more

## Food Policy for Food Justice: Food Justice & GMOs

September 2014

Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs) are deeply entrenched in our current food system. Most of us don't even know when we are eating something that contains GMOs. So what is the big deal? And what do GMOs have to do with food justice? The corporations behind the development and proliferation of GMOs would certainly like us to quit asking questions. Since Our Kitchen Table is a food justice organization, it's our mission to ask such questions.

You probably eat GMOs EVERY DAY.



PERCENT OF GMOs IN TOTAL CROP PRODUCTION 2011 (USA)



GMOs are plants or animals created through the gene splicing techniques of biotechnology. This experimental technology merges DNA from different species, creating unstable combinations of plant, animal, bacterial and viral genes that cannot occur in nature or in traditional crossbreeding.

GMOs are part of the current food system in a big way, as reflected by the above info-graphic. And, they are something that the public has had little or no say in. Genetically modified organisms cause numerous problems.

1 Since most GMOs are not fully tested, we don't fully understand their impact on human health over a long period of time. According to sources like the Organic Consumers Association



# OUR KITCHEN TABLE



# The Many Facets of Food Justice

OKTjustice.org

# What does food access look like in this community?

## FOOD ACCESS

DISTANCE FROM  
FIELD TO FORK  
+  
DISTANCE FROM  
POCKET TO PLATE

## FROM POCKET TO PLATE

How much does it cost?  
Can I afford it?  
How can I pay for it?  
How do I get to it?  
Do I have to prepare it?  
Do I know how it's prepared?  
Is it culturally relevant?  
What's in it? Is it nutritious?

## FIELD TO FORK



**Grow  
my own  
Grow  
and share**

**Community Garden  
CSA, (offline/online)  
Cooperatives  
Local Farm  
Farmers Markets,  
on sight or mobile**

**Food pantry,  
client choice pantry,  
mobile (food truck)  
Other - Food Based  
Programs in  
Community**

**Grocery Store  
Big Box Store  
(Meijer, Walmart, etc.)  
Buying Club - on line  
Local convenience  
(gas station, corner store,  
bodega, drug store)**

**Soup Kitchen  
Carry Out and/or  
fast food or casual  
dining (Coney Island)  
Family style buffet s  
Restaurants (other)**

## Food Policy for Food Justice: What Is Food Justice?



May 2014

### What Is Food Justice?

**F**ood Justice is an idea, a set of principles and something we should all strive to practice. More importantly, Food Justice is a movement and, like most social justice movements, it was born out of the lived experience of people experiencing...

In many ways Food Justice is a response to the Environmental Justice movement, which was a response to the needs of working class people who began to realize that their lack of access to affordable food was not the result of their own behavior, but of a food system that was motivated by...

It is fashionable for people to talk about how people who are living in poverty also live in a "food desert." What this term usually mean is that people don't live close to a grocery store. The term "food desert" is problematic in many ways. First, it implies a barren eco-system and not a barren wasteland, as is often implied with the term. Secondly, identifying neighborhoods as "food deserts" ignores history and fails to acknowledge that most of these neighborhoods had small grocery stores, farmers markets, fruit & vegetable stands and lots of backyard gardens. However, economic and political conditions driven by the current industrial food system resulted in neighborhoods being both abandoned and undermined, often resulting in food insecurity.

Therefore, it would be more accurate to say that neighborhoods experiencing a lack of access to affordable food are communities experiencing Food Apartheid. As the term explains that a small number of people (agribusiness) determine the kind of food system that the mass of people experience. Just as Apartheid imposed on Black South Africans, Food Apartheid has imposed on communities of color. As a result, few of us have a say in the current food system.

## What is Food Justice?

OUR KITCHEN TABLE





## Food Justice

The **benefits** and **risks** of where, what, and how food is:

- grown,
- produced,
- transported,
- distributed,
- accessed and
- eaten

**are shared fairly.**





## **Food Justice**

*transforms the current food system to eliminate disparities and inequities.*



# Food Policy for Food Justice: Women of Color & The Fight for Food Justice



*“Women, historical creators of knowledge in agriculture and food, continue to produce 80% of food in the poorest countries, are currently the main guardians of biodiversity and crop seeds, being the more*

When people think of farmers in the United States, the image that most people have is a man. For the most part this is true, especially with the onset of industrial agriculture, where men operate machines to produce food.

However, globally, women dominate food production. According to the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), women produce about 80% of the world’s food.

If you think about food preparation and preservation, the image probably won’t be as clear. It is also true. Whether it’s preparing meals, making breads, canning or saving seeds, women are responsible for the majority of these tasks.

Isn’t it ironic that while the world’s women are the most involved with food, they have the least to say in our current food system, which is dominated by large multinational corporations. This system doesn’t consider the wellbeing of women in the decisions it makes, especially not the well being of women of color.

Research shows that the current food system impacts women disproportionately, especially with chronic disease,



## Food Justice

focuses on issues of gender class and race.

**Gender,  
Class,  
Race**



# FEEDING AMERICA®

West Michigan Food Bank

Formerly Second Harvest Gleaners  
Food Bank of West Michigan, Inc.

FeedingAmericaWestMichigan.org  
616.784.3250



**Food charity is not  
food justice.**

Food banks and food  
charity are important but  
do not address the causes  
of food insecurity.

OUR KITCHEN TABLE







## La Donna Redmond

Food + Justice =  
Democracy

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ydZfSuz-Hu8>

Protecting Our  
Potential

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AWukl6lqyJI>





Food Justice ensures food security.

## Food Policy for Food Justice:

# 4

### *Food Justice, Food Workers and a Living Wage*

August 2014



of a living wage, especially as it relates to workers in the food industry.

A Living Wage is different than a minimum wage. It takes inflation into account and addresses what an individual actually needs to earn in order to live in the current economy. Many organizations around the country are calling for a \$15 an hour Living Wage and have won campaigns to get such an hourly wage passed.

These \$15 an hour campaigns are mostly being organized by workers in the food industry, restaurant workers, those in retail and the fast food industry. These food industry workers have been among the most exploited in the US in recent decades and are challenging a system that has made billions in profits by paying low wages.

Almost all workers in the food industry earn a sub-minimum wage—from migrant workers and those working in food processing plants to grocery store clerks and people in restaurants, institutional food cafeterias and fast food chains. In both the restaurant and agriculture industries, minimum wage laws do not apply. Migrant workers are at the mercy of whatever farm owners want to pay them; people working for tips in restaurants have a whole different minimum wage standard applied to them.

For instance, the minimum wage for tip workers in Michigan is \$2.65 an hour. The 2014 minimum wage law would increase that to a meager \$3.52 by 2018. Imagine working for those wages and relying on the generosity of

especially when larger numbers of people in the US are

## Food Insecurity

1. You cannot get healthy foods.

Living wage for all



# Definitions:

## Food Insecurity

2. You cannot store or prepare healthy foods.







## Food Insecurity

3. Only junk and fast foods are available in your neighborhood.



## Food Desert

Neighborhoods with little or no access to large grocery stores that offer fresh and affordable foods.

**Is this a good term?**



## Food Desert?

- A desert is a vibrant ecosystem.





## Food Desert?

- Grocery stores are not a measure of food security.



Intentional political, historical and corporate influences limit availability of healthy food in certain neighborhoods.



## Food Desert?

Nope – it's  
Food Apartheid.



## Food Policy for Food Justice: Food Justice & Public Health

Most Americans would put healthcare near the top of their list of concerns. Healthcare is not only an issue of cost, but deeply impacts our daily lives. Through the lens of Food Justice, Our Kitchen Table believes that Americans are facing a public health crisis; a major contributor to this crisis is the current food system.

"People are fed by the Food Industry,  
which pays no attention to health,



and are treated by the Health Industry,  
which pays no attention to food."  
Wendell Berry

The consequences of poor health are directly linked to the kind of food we eat and have access to. Whether heart disease, diabetes, obesity or any number of current health issues, all connect to what foods we eat and have access to.

Though we all have some responsibility for improving our health, the current agribusiness-driven food system is the main culprit in creating poor public

health. From a Food Justice perspective, here is how we understand the issues of food and public health.

- Agri-business manufactures processed food items that make up the majority of what people buy at grocery stores. Most of these food products are unhealthy to consume over an extended period of time.
- These processed food items are saturated with sugar, salt, fat and chemical preservatives, which contribute to poor public health.
- Agri-business spends millions of dollars every year lobbying Congress to limit and regulate the food system. This makes it difficult for us to know what food makes us unhealthy.
- Agri-business spends billions every year researching new ways to make food items that are **highly addictive**. This is why we all really like the stuff that is not healthy.
- Agri-business spends billions more marketing the unhealthy foods to the public: soft drinks, snack foods, fast food and marketing for highly processed food items. Most of this marketing targets children between the ages of two and 18.
- The current Agri-business driven food system most negatively impacts the people most marginalized in our country—people experiencing communities of color, children and immigrant communities.

## Food Apartheid:

The intentional, systemic marketing and distribution of:

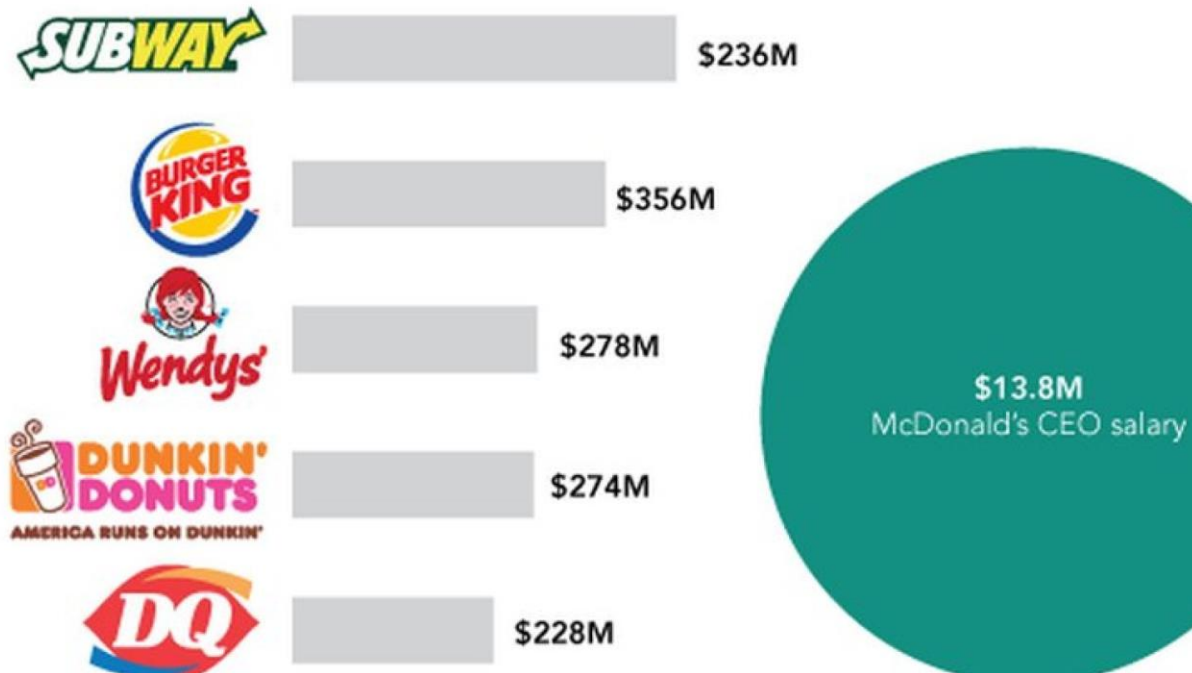
- profitable,
  - nutrient-poor,
  - disease-causing
- foods to income-challenged neighborhoods, mainly, communities of color (i.e. communities receiving the most food assistance dollars).

Lack of access = disease



## Why Do Our Neighborhoods Experience Food Apartheid?

**IT'S PROFITABLE FOR THE FOOD INDUSTRY.**





## **Ron Finley** Guerilla Gardening

[http://www.ted.com/talks/ron\\_finley\\_a\\_guerilla\\_gardener\\_in\\_south\\_central\\_la?language=en](http://www.ted.com/talks/ron_finley_a_guerilla_gardener_in_south_central_la?language=en)





**How did we get the food system that we have?.**

# History



## Industrial Capitalism

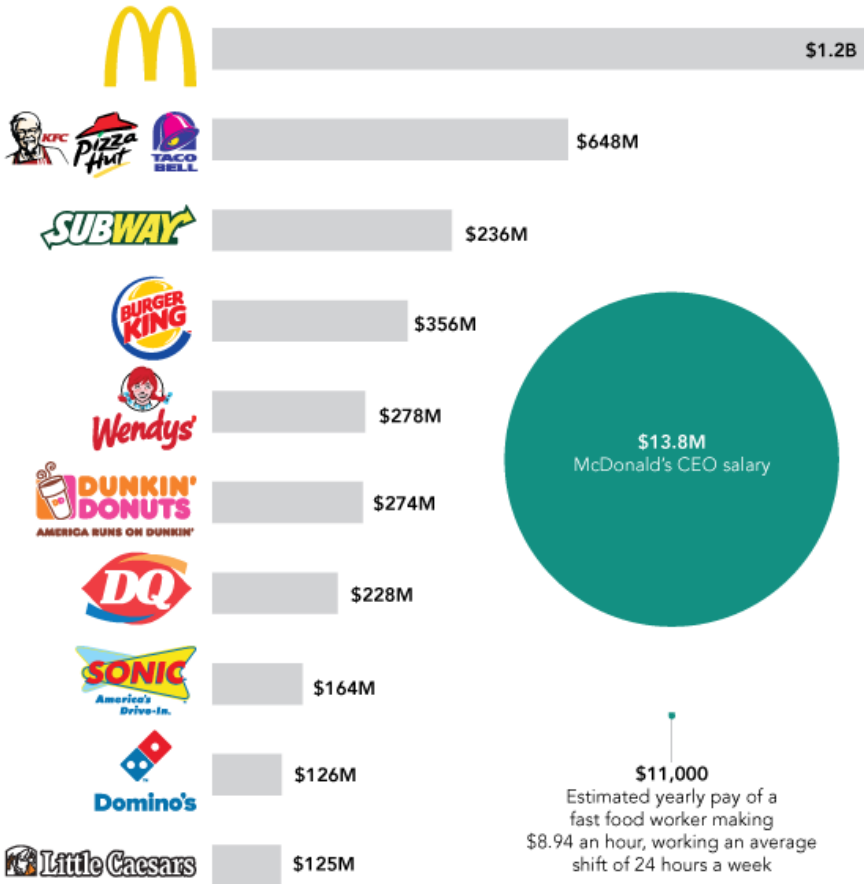
People moved to cities and stopped growing their own food.





# This Is What The Fast Food Industry Costs Taxpayers

Estimated Average Annual Cost Of Low-Wage Workers' Public Assistance



Sources: National Employment Law Project, Reuters

**Profits valued over people (and animals)**





## Industrial preservation.

Advertising taught us to trust factory-made food.

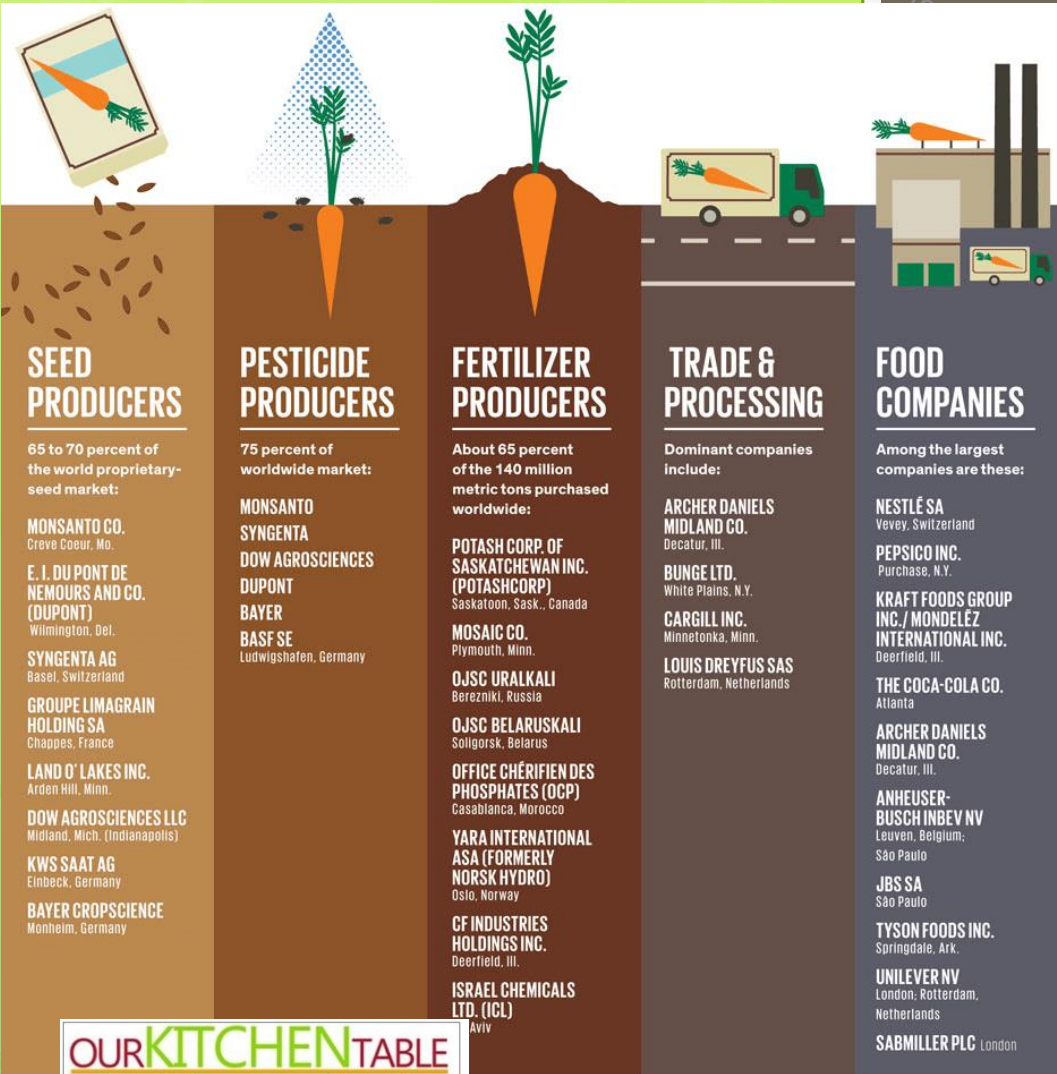




## Refrigeration & transportation.

“In-season” changed from local to national to global.





## SEED PRODUCERS

65 to 70 percent of the world proprietary-seed market:

**MONSANTO CO.**  
Creve Coeur, Mo.

**E. I. DU PONT DE NEMOURS AND CO. (DUPONT)**  
Wilmington, Del.

**SYNGENTA AG**  
Basel, Switzerland

**GROUPE LIMAGRAIN HOLDING SA**  
Chagnes, France

**LAND O' LAKES INC.**  
Arden Hill, Minn.

**DOW AGROSCIENCES LLC**  
Midland, Mich. (Indianapolis)

**KWS SAAT AG**  
Einbeck, Germany

**BAYER CROPSCIENCE**  
Monheim, Germany

## PESTICIDE PRODUCERS

75 percent of worldwide market:

**MONSANTO**

**SYNGENTA**

**DOW AGROSCIENCES**

**DUPONT**

**BAYER**

**BASF SE**

Ludwigshafen, Germany

## FERTILIZER PRODUCERS

About 65 percent of the 140 million metric tons purchased worldwide:

**POTASH CORP. OF SASKATCHEWAN INC. (POTASHCORP)**  
Saskatoon, Sask., Canada

**MOSAIC CO.**  
Plymouth, Minn.

**OJSC URALKALI**  
Berezniki, Russia

**OJSC BELARUSKALI**  
Solligorsk, Belarus

**OFFICE CHÉRIFIEN DES PHOSPHATES (OCP)**  
Casablanca, Morocco

**YARA INTERNATIONAL ASA (FORMERLY NORSK HYDRO)**  
Oslo, Norway

**CF INDUSTRIES HOLDINGS INC.**  
Deerfield, Ill.

**ISRAEL CHEMICALS LTD. (ICL)**  
Aviv

## TRADE & PROCESSING

Dominant companies include:

**ARCHER DANIELS MIDLAND CO.**  
Decatur, Ill.

**BUNGE LTD.**  
White Plains, N.Y.

**CARGILL INC.**  
Minnetonka, Minn.

**LOUIS DREYFUS SAS**  
Rotterdam, Netherlands

## FOOD COMPANIES

Among the largest companies are these:

**NESTLÉ SA**  
Vevey, Switzerland

**PEPSICO INC.**  
Purchase, N.Y.

**KRAFT FOODS GROUP INC./ MONDELÉZ INTERNATIONAL INC.**  
Deerfield, Ill.

**THE COCA-COLA CO.**  
Atlanta

**ARCHER DANIELS MIDLAND CO.**  
Decatur, Ill.

**ANHEUSER-BUSCH INBEV NV**  
Leuven, Belgium;  
São Paulo

**JBS SA**  
São Paulo

**TYSON FOODS INC.**  
Springdale, Ark.

**UNILEVER NV**  
London; Rotterdam,  
Netherlands

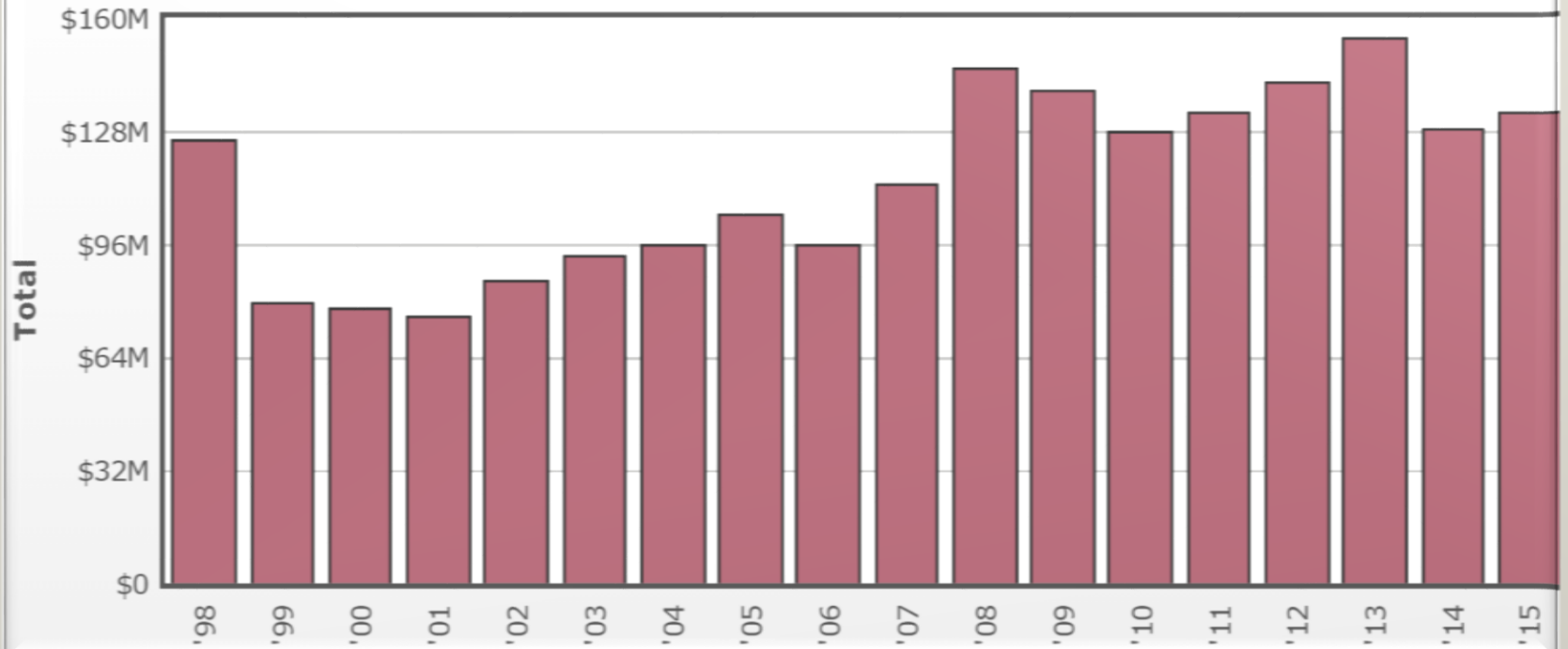
**SABMILLER PLC** London

Corporate control of the food system.

OUR KITCHEN TABLE



## Annual Lobbying on Agribusiness



**Food Policy for Food Justice: # 1  
THE FARM BILL**



**We all pay for an unhealthy food system**

The current food system in the United States is bad for the environment, bad for public health and primarily benefits the largest agricultural companies. This may not be news to most people, but what is less known is who pays for the current US food system.

**Corporate welfare**

Every few years, the US government adopts a new Farm Bill. The most recent Farm Bill, like the previous ones, provides billions of dollars to Big Ag and little to small, family run farms. The 2014 Farm Bill provides \$956 Billion in taxpayer subsidies to huge corporations like Monsanto, Archer Daniels Midland, Kraft and Wal-Mart, corporations which make billions in profits annually.



So why does the US government give these corporations so much of the taxpayers' money? These companies spend millions of dollars lobbying Congress every year and they finance political candidates running for election. For example, in the 2012 election cycle, Monsanto contributed \$1,209,714 to candidates. In 2013 alone, they spent nearly \$7 million lobbying the US Congress. (opensecrets.org)

**The Farm Bill gave \$956 billion to agribusiness.**





In Michigan, 2012 farm subsidies provided by taxpayers totaled \$263 million, with most of that money going to large farms growing mono-crops or livestock: corn subsidies, \$59 million; soybeans, \$35 million; and the dairy sector, more than \$22 million. (Source: <http://farm.ewg.org/>)



While providing huge subsidies to agribusiness, the 2014 Farm Bill cut \$8.6 billion in Food Assistance. During a time when more and more Americans live in poverty and rely on government food assistance programs, Congress decided to drastically cut these funds and give more taxpayer money to large corporations.

**Food is a human right.**  
What we need is a food system that is based on food justice, where food is a right and the government does not punish marginalized communities but provides them access to healthy, nutritious food. We need to promote and practice food sovereignty, giving everyone a voice in deciding what kind of food system they want for their community. This is what Our Kitchen Table and Well House both promote and practice through their food growing and food justice work.



To get involved contact Our Kitchen Table at [OKTable1@gmail.com](mailto:OKTable1@gmail.com).



[OKTjustice.org](http://OKTjustice.org)

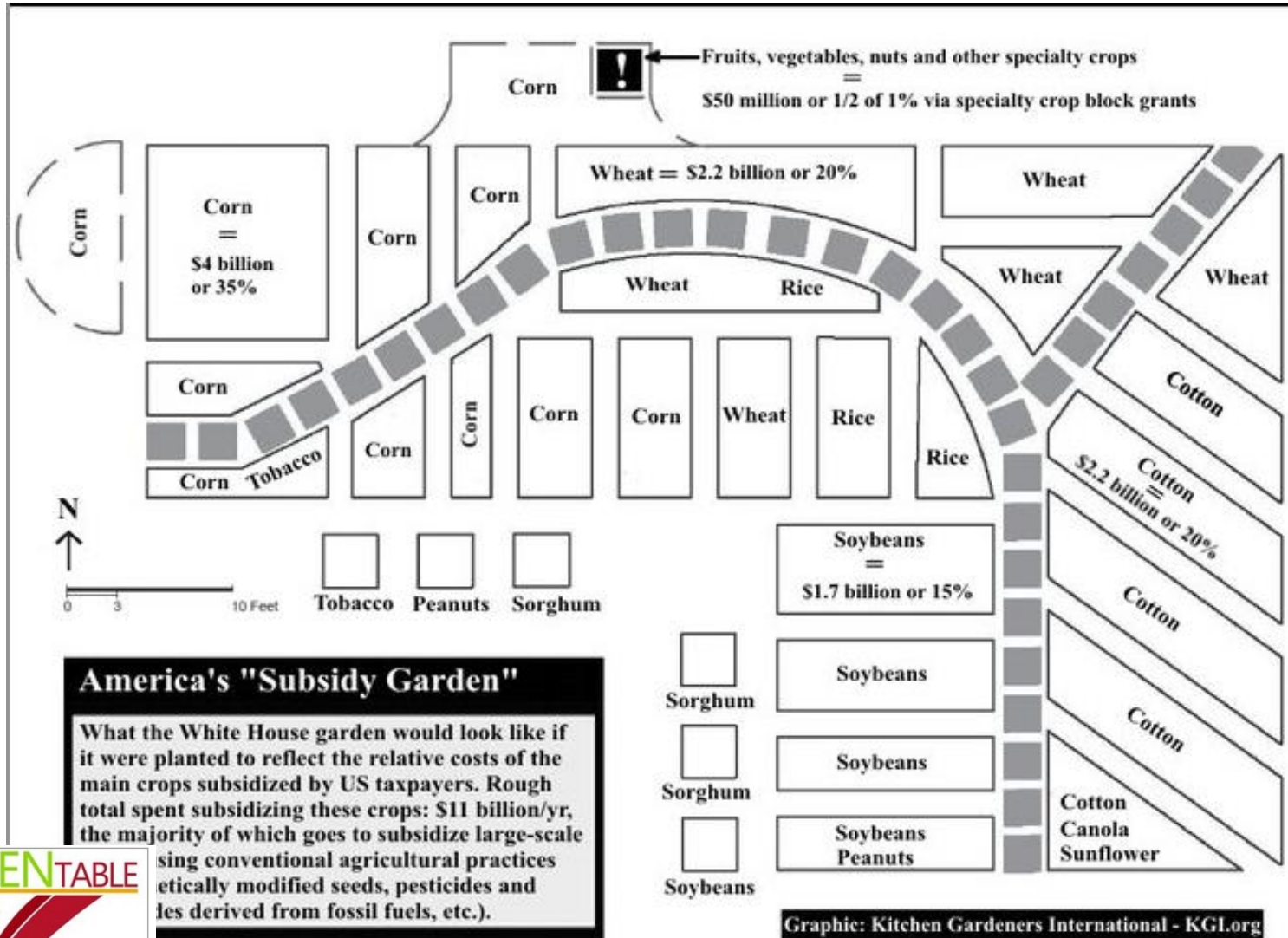
[oktable1@gmail.com](mailto:oktable1@gmail.com) 616-206-3641

**Cut \$8.6 billion**  
from  
food assistance  
programs.

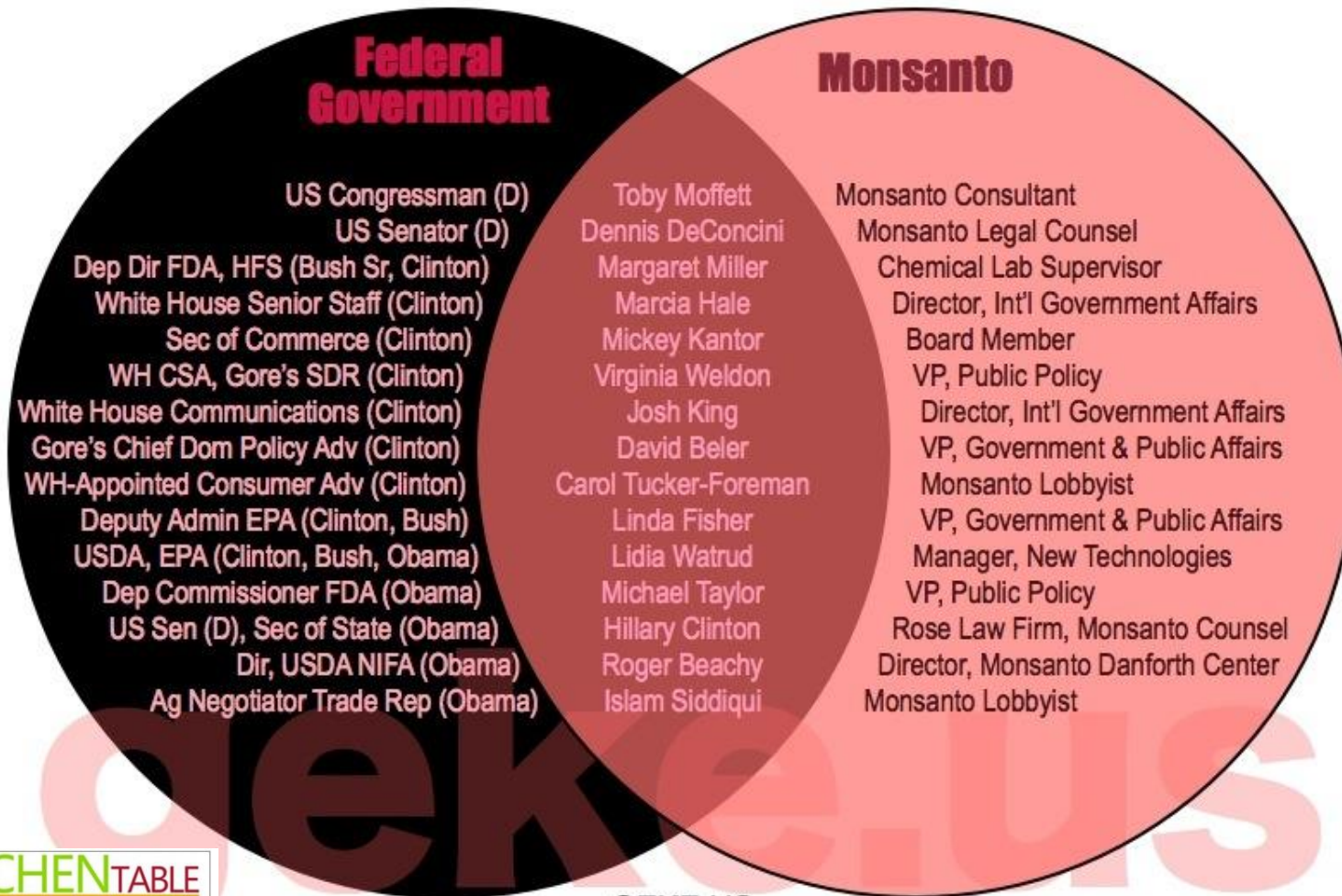


# Corporate Influencers

## In Government



# Revolving doors



GEKE.US





# Prop. 37: Genetically Engineered Foods

Requires labeling of food products made from genetically modified organisms.

Outcome: **X FAILED**

✓ YES

Funding ⓘ

✗ NO

[Download all contributions](#)

RANK	CONTRIBUTOR NAME	TOTAL
1	MERCOLA.COM HEALTH RESOURCES LLC	\$1,199,000
2	KENT WHEALY	\$1,000,000
3	NATURE'S PATH FOODS U.S.A. INC. FINE NATURAL FOOD PRODUCTS	\$660,709
	DR. BRONNER'S MAGIC SOAPS ALL-ONE-GOD-FAITH INC.	\$620,883
	ORGANIC CONSUMERS FUND	\$605,667
	LI PARTOVI	\$288,975
	ARK SQUIRE	\$258,000
	SHAH FARM, INC., DBA BERBERG FAMILY FARMS	\$251,500
	OUR KITCHEN TABLE	\$200,000
	WILLONGER TRUST, SQUIRE TRUSTEE	\$190,000

\$9.2 million raised in total

Last updated: 11/6/2012

RANK	CONTRIBUTOR NAME	TOTAL
1	MONSANTO COMPANY	\$8,112,867
2	E.I. DUPONT DE NEMOURS & CO.	\$5,400,000
3	PEPSICO, INC.	\$2,485,400
4	GROCERY MANUFACTURERS ASSOCIATION	\$2,002,000
5	KRAFT FOODS GLOBAL, INC.	\$2,000,500
6	BAYER CROPSCIENCE	\$2,000,000
7	DOW AGROSCIENCES LLC	\$2,000,000
8	BASF PLANT SCIENCE	\$2,000,000
9	SYNGENTA CORPORATION	\$2,000,000
10	COCA-COLA COMPANY	\$1,700,500

\$46.0 million raised in total

Last updated: 11/6/2012

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September 2014

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You probably eat GMOs EVERY DAY.



30,000 different GMOs exist on grocery store shelves (largely because of how many processed foods contain soy).

PERCENT OF GMOs IN TOTAL CROP PRODUCTION 2011 (USA)



GMOs are plants or animals created through the gene splicing techniques of biotechnology. This experimental technology merges DNA from different species, creating unstable combinations of plant, animal, bacterial and viral genes that cannot occur in nature or in traditional crossbreeding.

GMOs are part of the current food system in a big way, as reflected by the above info-graphic. And, they are something that the public has had little or no say in. Genetically modified organisms cause numerous problems.

Since most GMOs are not fully tested, we don't fully understand their impact on human health over a long period of time. According to sources like the Organic Consumers Association, GMOs have been linked to:

- Thousands of toxic and allergic reactions.
- Thousands of sick, sterile and dead livestock.
- Damage to virtually every organ and system studied in lab animals.
- Increased likelihood of allergies.
- Damage of the immune system.
- Damage of the liver.



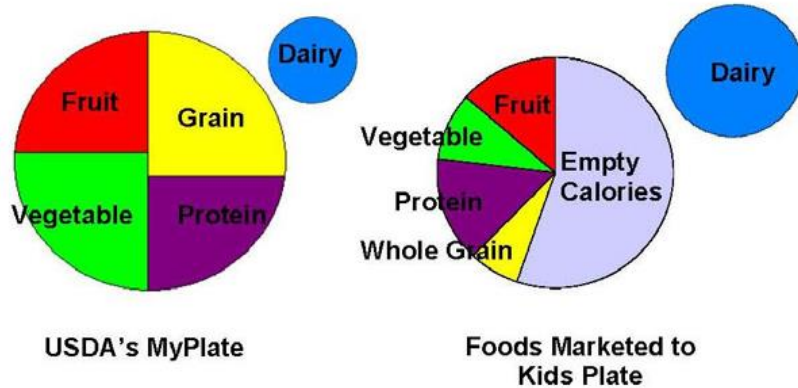
OUR KITCHEN TABLE







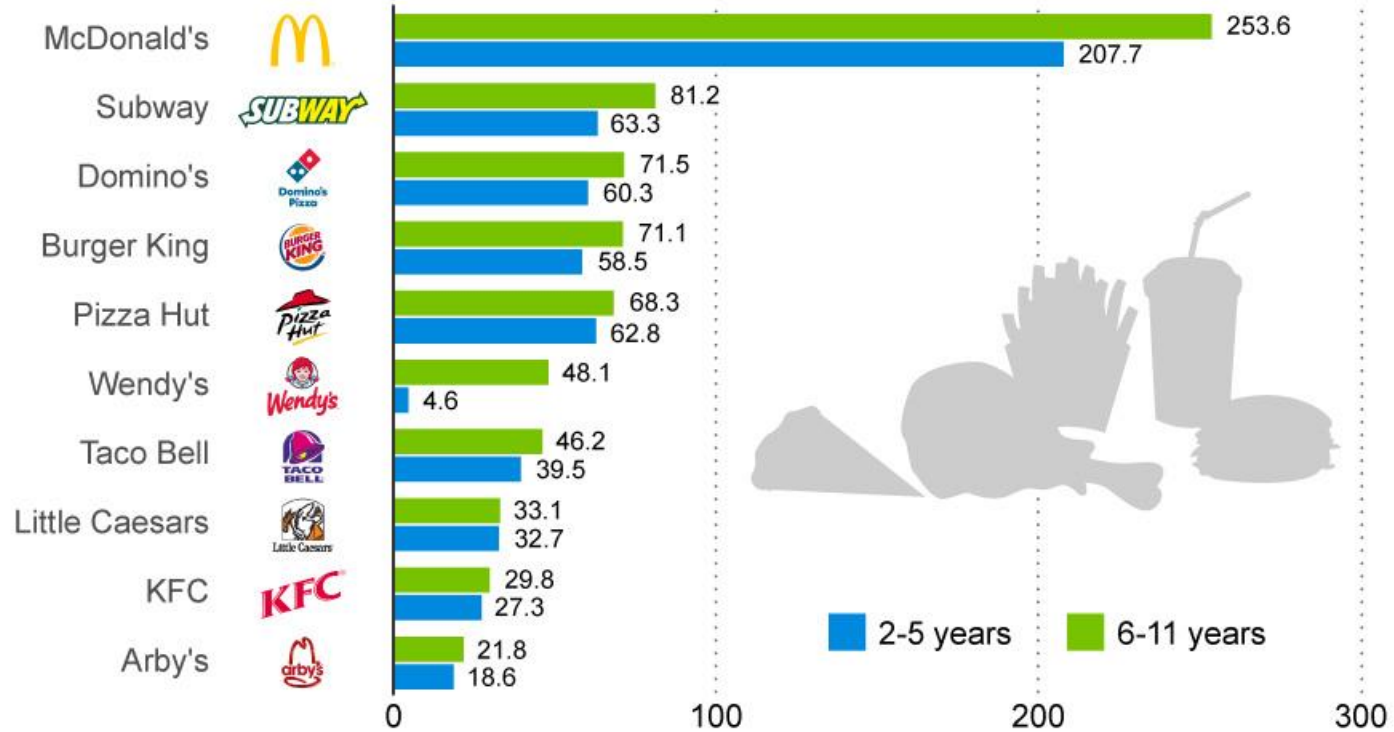
**Foods marketed to kids are out of balance.**



**\$1.8 billion in advertising target children** with unhealthy foods via TV, product placement, online, phones, school events & materials etc.

# U.S. Kids Watch Hundreds of Fast Food Ads Per Year

Fast food brands most advertised to U.S. children aged 2-11 (average # of ads viewed in 2012)



statista  
The Statistics Portal

Mashable

Sources: Nielsen, Yale Rudd Center for Food Policy

OUR KITCHEN TABLE



# a snapshot of corporate influence over university agricultural research 2012

corporate representative  
on university board

corporate funding for  
university departments,  
schools and buildings

**UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA**

Monsanto  
Chiquita, Dole  
United Fresh  
Earthbound Farm  
Taylor Farms

Produce  
Marketing Assoc.  
Syngenta, Sysco

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*Nomacorc, Mars*  
*American  
Vineyard Assoc.*  
*Chevron  
Technology  
Ventures*  
*Arcadia  
Bioscience*  
*Novo Nordisk*

**IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY**

Monsanto  
Iowa Farm  
Bureau  
Pioneer Hi-Bred  
Summit Group

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*Monsanto, Dow  
Deere & Co.*  
*Syngenta, Bayer*  
*Iowa Soybean  
Association*  
*Iowa Cattlemen's  
Association*  
*National Pork  
Board*  
*United Soybean  
Board*

**TEXAS A&M**

*Monsanto*  
*Pioneer Hi-Bred*  
*Cotton Inc.*  
*Chevron Tech  
National*  
*Cattlemen's  
Beef Assoc.*  
*National Pork  
Board*  
*Donald Danforth  
Plant Science  
Center*

**UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS**

Monsanto

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*Monsanto*  
*Syngenta, Pfizer*  
*Nestle Nutrition*  
*Pepsi, Eianco*  
*SmithBucklin &  
Associates*  
*National Pork  
Board*

**UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA**

*Pfizer, Intervet*  
*Alcon Research*  
*Mars, Vistakon*

**PURDUE UNIVERSITY**

Kroger, ConAgra

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*Dow, Deere & Co.*  
*Hinsdale Farms*  
*Nestle, BASF*

**UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS**

Tyson, Walmart

**UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI**

*Phillip Morris*  
*Monsanto, Dow*  
*SmithBucklin &  
Associates*  
*Iams, Pfizer*  
*American  
Veterinary Medical  
Association*

**UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA**

Cargill

**UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA**

Cargill, Conagra  
General Mills  
Unilever,  
Coca-Cola,  
McDonald's

**CORNELL UNIVERSITY**

Kraft

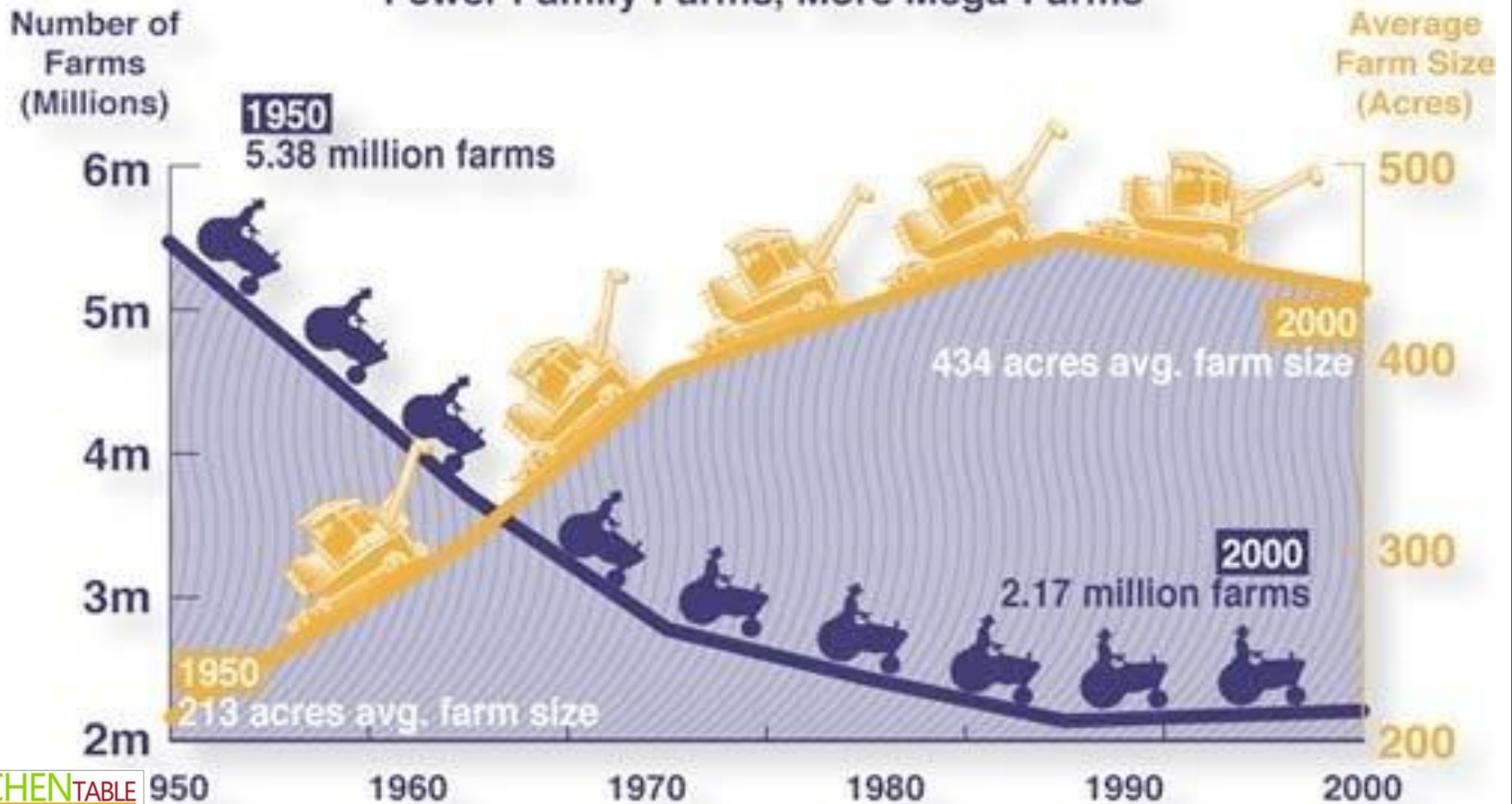
**COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY**

*Fluor Danco Ranch*



# “Get Big or Get Out”

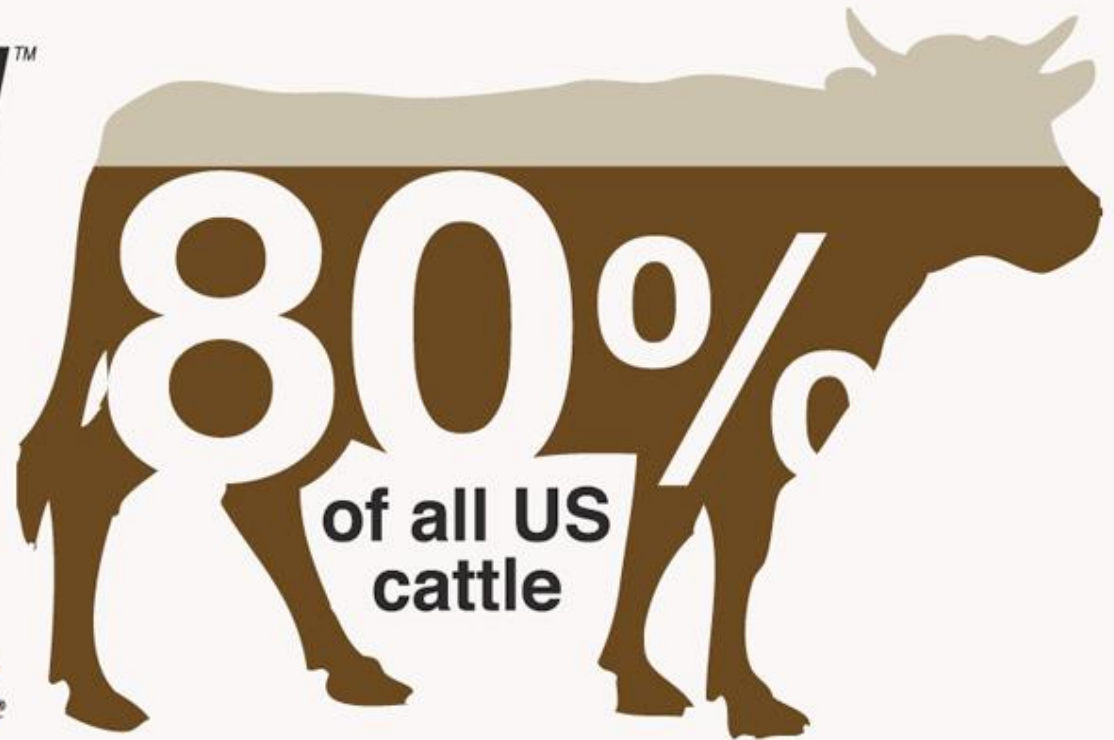
## Fewer Family Farms, More Mega-Farms





# Top 4 US Beef Companies

1 **Cargill**<sup>TM</sup>







[http://www.eatdrinkpolitics.com/wp-content/uploads/AND\\_Corporate\\_Sponsorship\\_Report.pdf](http://www.eatdrinkpolitics.com/wp-content/uploads/AND_Corporate_Sponsorship_Report.pdf)

# Top 4 US Food Retailers

US stores and net sales in billions of USD

**Walmart**  **1**  
 stores 4750 sales \$ 264.2

 **2**  
 stores 3624 sales \$ 90.4

**COSTCO**  
 WHOLESALE **3**  
 stores 592 sales \$ 88.9

**TARGET.** **4**  
 stores 1767 sales \$ 70.0

**50%**  
of all grocery sales

**Monopolization of food distribution.**

[walmartsubsidywatch.org/](http://walmartsubsidywatch.org/)







## Food Justice

asserts that **healthy food is a human right**. No one should live without enough food because of income challenges or social inequalities.

[growingfoodandjustice.org](http://growingfoodandjustice.org)





# The OKT Model

Building an alternative food system in Grand Rapids, MI





## Food Diversity Project: Food Growing

OKT grows 1000s of organic  
starter food plants each spring.



# Food Diversity Project: Food Growing

## **Yard gardens**

OKT supplies:

- Plants and seeds
- Composted soil
- Containers
- Basic garden tools
- Garden Coach





# Food Diversity Project: Food Growing

## **GRPS school gardens – 2016**

- MLK Jr. Leadership Academy
- GR Ford Academic Center



## Food Diversity Project: Food Growing

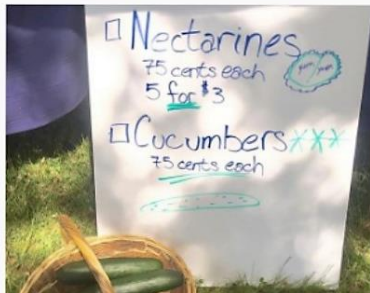
### Agency & Community Gardens

- Kent County Juvenile Detention Center
- KCHD WIC Garden
- And more





# Food Diversity Project: Southeast Area Farmers' Market





Food Diversity  
Project:  
Collective  
Whole Foods  
Purchase Group





Cook, Eat & Talk

# Food Diversity Project: Popular Education



Women of Color Series

## Food Diversity Project: Popular Education



**City of Grand Rapids  
Residential Composting**

**What is compost?**

Most simply, compost is decomposed organic materials used as a soil conditioner and fertilizer, also known as humus. Compost is known as "gardener's gold" because it improves soil structure, retains water, encourages roots to release nutrients slowly.

**What are the benefits of composting beyond garden?**

- > Recycles kitchen and yard waste (approximately 25% of household waste)
- > Reduces landfill waste
- > Reduces use of chemical fertilizers that harm the environment

**Can I compost in the City of Grand Rapids?**

Yes! You can compost on the premises of an occupied residential property. There are a few simple rules:

- 1) Place composting materials in a fully enclosed bin.
- 2) Place the bin(s) in the rear yard only.
- 3) Place only materials identified below as acceptable.
- 4) Keep the bin(s) tightly covered, except when adding materials.

Using the "pile" method or having exposed materials is restricted to your rear yard. Placing animal waste, brush, and other materials identified below under "NO" are prohibited.

**What will happen if I don't comply with the City's rules?**

The City desires to encourage composting and promote the quality of life in our neighborhoods that is free of animal harborage, and uncontrolled odors. Failure to follow the rules outlined above is a violation of City Code. Your property may be subject to required removal of your composting materials.

**What materials are acceptable for composting?**

To avoid animal harborage, nuisances and odors, materials to be composted must be selected carefully. Items under "YES" can be placed in your compost bin, while items under "NO" are prohibited.

YES	NO
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fruit and vegetable peelings</li> <li>• Lettuce leaves, egg shells</li> <li>• Coffee grounds, tea leaves/bags</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cooked foods</li> <li>• Grease, oils, fats</li> <li>• Meat, fish, bones</li> <li>• Dairy products, breads</li> <li>• Animal waste, cat litter</li> <li>• Diseased plants</li> <li>• Invasive weeds, weeds with seeds</li> </ul>



# Food Diversity Project: Policy Advocacy

Raising awareness about local, state and national policy.

**OUR KITCHEN TABLE**



# Public Policy

## International

- Navdanya Seed Freedom Campaign

## Federal

- Farm Bill
- Affordable Care Act
- Food and Safety Modernization Act (seed saving now illegal)

## Michigan

- Personal Responsibility Reconciliation Act  
(“Asset Test” Accumulative limit of 4 years to receive assistance.)
- Mothering Justice – Time to Care Coalition –  
Paid Sick Leave Campaign
- Yard Waste/Land fill act

## Local

- Composting Ordinance
- Raising Chickens in Urban Neighborhoods
- Just Food Dollars Campaign







**Just change how you feel about food assistance.**

With government food assistance comes social stigma. Many of us see food assistance as a handout—and a disgrace. Our Kitchen Table asks you to challenge that notion.

In 2014, the federal government passed a new Farm Bill. The Farm Bill dictates how tax payer money supports both food production and food assistance.

This new bill gives \$956 billion of taxpayer money (your money) to the agribusiness sector. These corporations that operating huge, environmentally destructive mono-crop farms and inhumane CAFOs (factory livestock farms), are the real welfare recipients. If a sector of society that should feel shame for receiving public food assistance, it's the agribusiness sector.

Not only does this agribusiness sector contribute significantly to ecological destruction through their farming practices, they also exploit

workers in the food industry and are at the root of the public health crisis—most of the food they manufacture is unhealthy.

While increasing agribusiness welfare to \$956 billion, the 2014 Farm Bill also cut \$8.6 billion from food assistance programs serving adults and children experiencing poverty.

*Imagine for a moment how \$956 billion of public money redirected to the public could impact our neighborhoods. Everyone could purchase healthy and whole food in their own communities!*



**Just imagine a just food system.**

OKT's Just Food Dollars Campaign also seeks to promote a more just food system by accomplishing the following:

- 1) Educate the public about how their tax dollars are used to support an unjust and unhealthy food system.
- 2) Challenge the public to view government food assistance programs as beneficial and warranting increased funding.
- 3) Illustrate that government food assistance programs give public money back to the public. It's our own money!
- 4) Invite more people experiencing poverty and food insecurity to sign up for any and all food assistance programs, especially the Double Up Food Bucks program. (Our Kitchen Table is signing people up for this program across the community and at the South East Area Farmers Market.)
- 5) Encourage people to support the local food system by patronizing the South East Area Farmers Market, participating in OKT's Food Growing Program and attending workshops and food sharing opportunities so that we can build a movement that creates food justice and food sovereignty.

*Monies funding food assistance programs are monies collected, in part, from taxes paid by the very people using the programs.*



OKT invites you and all community organizations to partner with us in our Just Food Dollars campaign.

First, rethink how you yourself view government assistance programs that enable your neighbors to exercise their right to healthy food.

Second, refer your friends and neighbors using Bridge Cards to us so we can sign them up for Double Up Food Bucks.

Last, and most important, join us by posting and sharing our Just Food Campaign information so we can inspire a larger community conversation about how our food system is funded and how we can make it more just.

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## Food Policy for Food Justice: # 5 Food Justice & Climate Change

August 2014

*"Wild weather and unpredictable seasons are changing what farmers can grow and is making people hungry. Food prices are going up. Food quality is going down. So, climate change will affect what all of us can eat."*

—OXFAM



This opening statement from the international organization OXFAM introduces its investigation into the connection between Food Justice and Climate Justice. According to the Inter-governmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), which is made up of thousands of the world's leading climate scientists, our current food system is one of the main contributors to climate change.

Driven by increasing profits, the current food system contributes to climate change in the following ways:

- 1) Agribusiness practices mono-cropping, where large portions of land are devoted to growing one kind of crop. This kind of land usage not only increases the need for additional water, it degrades the quality of the soil and causes soil erosion.
- 2) Agribusiness completely depends on fossil fuels to grow and harvest food, thus contributing significantly to warming the planet. In addition, most food grown does not stay local. The average food item travels 1,000 miles before it is consumed, increasing the current food system's dependence on fossil fuels even more.
- 3) The current food system promotes high levels of meat consumption, particularly in the US. Producing so much meat diverts large amounts of water, increases levels of methane gas and requires more land use to raise feed, resulting in deforestation and the release of more carbon dioxide into the atmosphere. All of these factors further contribute to climate change.
- 4) The current food system produces highly processed foods that cause the many health problems we currently face. The energy and resources used to manufacture and distribute the high volume of unhealthy processed foods are also contributing to climate change.

## Food Diversity Project: Food Justice Handout Series

- What Is Food Justice?
- Women of Color & Food Justice
- The Farm Bill
- Food Workers & a Living Wage
- Food Justice & Climate Change
- Food Justice & GMOs
- Food Justice & Farmers' Markets
- Food Justice & Public Health
- How to Save Seeds
- Food Justice & Oral Health
- Water Justice
- Politics of Food



## How can you join the food justice movement?

- Attend OKT events.
- Support the Southeast Area Farmers' Market (and others).
- Grow and share your own food.
- Join a CSA farm.
- Cook from scratch.
- Learn to can.
- Arm yourself and your kids against advertising lies.
- Save seeds.
- Eat local.

Fill in the blanks....

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OUR KITCHEN TABLE



Thank you!

Our Kitchen Table

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