

Just the Facts

When Corporations Rule Our Food

Hunger. Pollution. Instability. Obesity. The problem with corporate food—by the numbers.



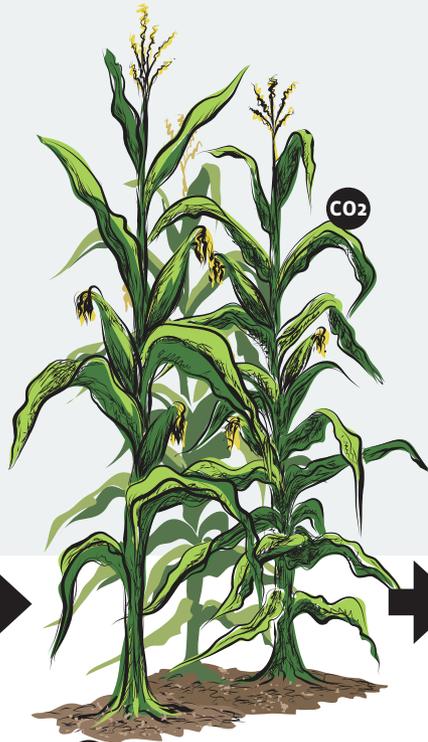
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CORPORATIONS CONTROL OUR FOOD ...

In the U.S., four companies pack 83.5% of beef and 66% of pork, and crush 80% of soybeans.

Two companies sell 58% of all U.S. seed corn.

Corporations produce 98% of poultry in the U.S.



5

MAKING US SICK AND CREATING FOOD INSECURITY ...

In 2007, before the current recession, 36.2 million people in the U.S. lived in food-insecure households, including 12.4 million children.

Global food prices increased almost 50% in 2008.

Americans generate roughly 30 million tons of food waste each year.

66% of adult Americans are overweight or obese.



2

WHICH PROMOTES INDUSTRIAL AGRICULTURE.

In 2006, farms larger than 2,000 acres made up 7% of all farms receiving government aid, but they got 26% of the money.

In 1935, the average farm was 135 acres. In 2002, average was 441 acres, median was 2,190.

2% of farms produce 50% of all agricultural products in the country.



3

CORPORATIONS ALSO CONTROL OUR FARMING METHODS ...

U.S. farmers use 2 billion kg of pesticides per year. World-wide use is 10 billion kg.

Genetically engineered herbicide-resistant crops have led to a 122-million pound increase in pesticide use.

In 2000, 25% of corn and 54% of soybeans grown in the U.S. were genetically modified. In 2008, the numbers were 80% and 92%.



4

AND CONTROL WHAT FOODS WE EAT ...

Iceberg lettuce, frozen and fried potatoes, potato chips, and canned tomatoes make up almost half of U.S. vegetable consumption.

In 1967, U.S. per capita consumption of high fructose corn syrup was 0.03 pounds per year. In 2006, it was 58.2. Total consumption of all sweeteners went up 23% in the same period.

75% of the world's food is generated from just 12 varieties of plants and five animal species.



6

AND ENVIRONMENTAL DISASTERS.

The "dead zone" at the mouth of the Mississippi River is now 8,000 square miles—about the size of New Jersey.

38% of agricultural lands worldwide are designated "degraded."

Livestock production creates 18% of greenhouse gases globally.