

Uncle Sam says -

GARDEN

To Cut Food Costs



Ask the -

U.S. Department of Agriculture Washington, D.C.

For a FREE Bulletin on Gardening - It's food for thought



Food Policy Councils

- Public concerns about increasing hunger, food deserts, obesity rates among children, food pollution, loss of prime agricultural lands, dwindling farmer population, and environmental problems such as soil erosion and water contamination have led to FPCs.
- 200+ FPCs have formed in states, regions, counties, cities and towns across the United States to assert local control over local food systems.
- FPCs work to increase the social, economic, and environmental health of local and regional food systems

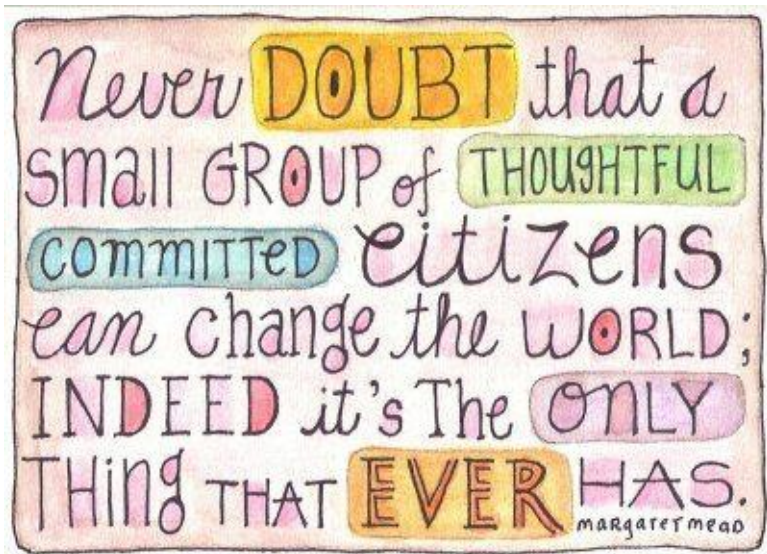
A Food System

- A food system includes all that's involved in moving food from farm to fork.
- **Production** – growers.
- **Processing** –
 - small scale – food hubs.
 - large scale – manufacturers.
- **Distribution** – transportation.
- **Consumption** – grocery stores, etc.
- **Waste & Recovery** – 40% waste.

“Food is one issue that cannot be solved person by person. We have to stand together.” -Josette Sheeran



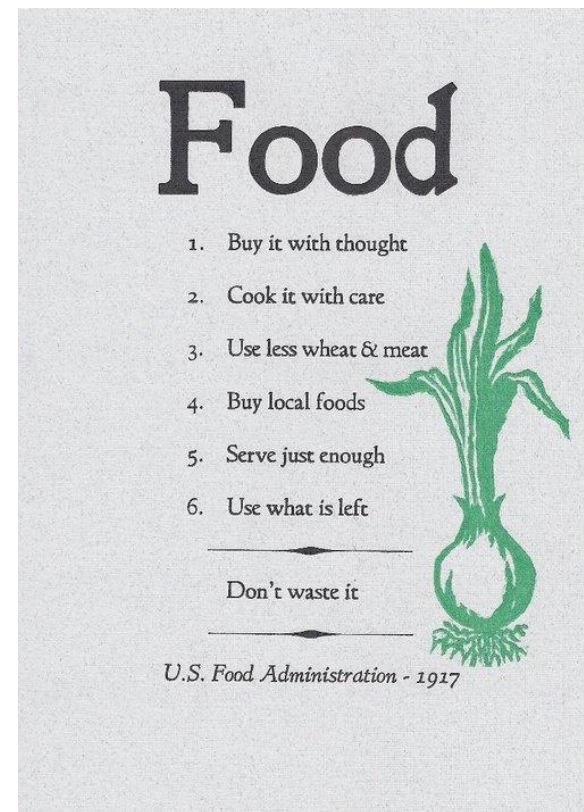
From Local to Global



- Since World War II, local food has been replaced by **global** food controlled by 20 transnational corporations.
- Consumer **concerns** about food safety have increased.
- Consumer **voices** have been overwhelmed by corporate voices and corporate secrecy.
- FPCs form to re-establish local **control** over developing a local food system.

FPCs Empower Local, State, and National Action

- FPCs generate local **empowerment**, coordination, and developmental action plans.
- FPCs gather data to describe food problems & find mutually beneficial **solutions**.
- FPCs **advocate** with officials and the public for policy change, legislation, and funding.
- FPCs **evaluate** food system improvements & public health measures.



Why has hunger kept increasing?



- An **Unfriendly Economy**:
- Household income has been level since the 1980s, while the cost of living keeps increasing.
- In the Great Recession of 2008-09:
 - Middleclass lost 40% of **wealth**, mainly in home equity.
 - Personal & household **debt** levels sharply increased.
 - Middleclass **savings** have virtually dropped to zero.
 - Well-paying **jobs** are scarce.
 - In 2014, 45.7% of Arizona households were **financially insecure**, at high risk of poverty.
 - Today, middleclass households have become the “**working poor**.”

Yavapai Food Council



- Arizona 501c3 **nonprofit** formed in 2009 to improve resources for the hungry in the Verde Valley.
- Public requests to expand the service area to all of Yavapai County (220,000 residents in 60 communities), becoming the **YFC**.
- 50,000 **food-insecure** residents – 23% of population.
- 49 **emergency food providers** – food banks & pantries, hot meals programs, school weekend meals and student food pantries, senior centers, etc.

Preventing Hunger

■ Food insecurity in Yavapai County:

- 1 in 3 children.
- 1 in 4 adults.
- 1 in 6 seniors.
- 80 public schools – average 55% free/reduced meals enrollment.
- 24 schools without meals - 30%.
- 21 childcare centers without meals – 32%.
- 24,000 SNAP participants.
- 13,000 WIC participants.

■ YFC programs:

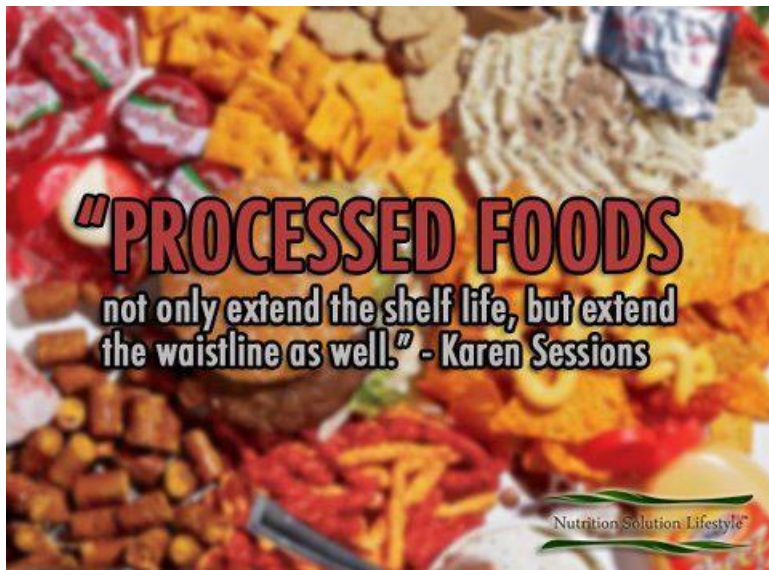
- **Food Neighbors** – raises donated food for emergency food providers – **more than one-half million meals**.
- **Backpacks for Kids** – weekend meals for students in 7 **elementary schools**.
- **High School Pantries** – food for 800 **food-insecure students** during school week.
- **SNAP Outreach** – assisting persons & families to **enroll** in SNAP.
- **Bountiful Kitchen** – catering school lunch and breakfast to charter schools formerly **without meals**.

Emergency Food Provider Actions

- YFC collaborated with others to:
- Start 8 **new** emergency food programs.
- Help 5 threatened programs **survive**.
- Tried but failed to **prevent** the ending of 3 programs due to financial and organizational support.
- Encourage food banks & pantries to stay **open after 5 pm** weekly so workers can be helped. Only one food bank actually made that change.
- Encourage food pantries to offer **customer choice** of foods. Only 2 pantries actually made that change.
- Provided mini-grants to 6 emergency food providers to **purchase fresh produce** from farmers to improve nutrition.
- Emergency food providers **count** pounds of food, not **customers**, so it's difficult to evaluate food provider impact in a community.



Food System Needs



- Emergency food consists of **commodities and processed foods** – not the healthiest food available.
- Public health services have **not** fully owned the rising hunger problem, except for federal food assistance programs.
- Local food growers need **food hubs** to establish a vibrant retail market where they can make a profit.
- More **linkages** between emergency food providers and growers need to be made to improve nutrition & health of customers.
- Focusing institutional **food procurement** policies on local food offers a viable way for assisting local growers.

Encouraging Developments

- The **Hunger Advisory Council** of ADES is compiling a statewide plan for Preventing Hunger in Arizona.
- **Valley of the Sun United Way** is implementing the Maricopa County Hunger Plan.
- **Cornucopia** is compiling a Food System Action Plan for Yavapai County.
- The **Community Food Bank** in Tucson has developed a collaborative food system recognized by the United Nations.
- A **Maricopa County Food Consortium** is building linkages between farmers & food providers.
- The **Arizona Food Marketing Alliance** promotes retail food store donations to emergency food providers, encourages convenience stores to stock vegetables and fruits, and supports grocery store food waste for use in composting.
- The **Navaho Nation** passed the first tax on junk food in America.
- **Local First Arizona** now offers a Good Food Finder website at goodfoodfinder.com & will offer food system training in May.
- The **Yuma Food Bank** is developing an organic garden for its customers.
- The University of Arizona is opening an **Institute for Food Studies**.
- **Sustainable Economic Development Initiative** (SEDI) in Flagstaff implements food system improvements in Northern Arizona.
- The **Association of Arizona Food Banks** & the **Arizona Community Action Association** now offer the #ImagineaSolution public education series of videos on hunger, poverty, and health.

We can work together in providing
good food for all!

Food is our
common
ground,
a universal
experience.

James Beard



THRASH
LAB