

A Study Guide for . . .
The Food Police
A Well-Fed Manifesto about the Politics of Your Plate
Jayson L. Lusk

Chapter 1.

Who are the food police? What are they up to?

Have the food police accurately described the state of food and agriculture in America?

What are some of the positive developments that have occurred in food and agriculture in recent decades?

Chapter 2.

What are the politics underlying the actions of many of the food police? How does the progressive view about human nature carry over to food?

What are the consequences of the fashionable food policies sought by the food police?

Are food prices rising or falling? Why does it matter? Are food prices a moral issue?

Chapter 3.

How has the history of the U.S. shaped how modern day Americans think about food?

What are some of the most egregious food or farm policies passed in U.S. history?

Do the historical insights have any implication for today's food policies?

Chapter 4.

What is behavioral economics? Why does it matter?

What are three myths about behavioral economics?

What is paternalism? Why is it a problem?

What food policies do you see proposed today that are motivated on paternalistic grounds?

Chapter 5.

Were you surprised about any of the facts revealed in the scientific literature about organic food?

What is the biggest misconception most people have about organic food?

Would a switch from conventional to organic farming create positive environmental outcomes?

Is there social pressure to buy more organic food? Does Lusk recommend eating or avoiding organic food?

How much food grown in the U.S. is organic?

Chapter 6.

How are crops and animals today different than the ones that existed 10,000 years ago? How did these changes happen?

What are the main crops that are produced via biotechnology? What percent of US cropland is devoted to varieties that have been genetically modified?

How long have Americans eaten foods produced via biotechnology?

What are the environmental consequences of farmers using biotechnology?

What do most farmers think about biotechnology?

Are GMOs safe to eat? Which major scientific organizations have made statements regarding the safety of GMOs?

What are some of the most promising food biotechnology developments?

Who is Monsanto? What have they done?

Should the government require mandatory labeling of foods made with biotechnology? Why or why not?

Chapter 7.

Is farm policy the primary blame for obesity and other food ills?

Do current farm policies raise or lower food prices?

Who benefits from farm subsidies?

What changes to farm policy are proposed by the food police? What will be the effects of the proposed policies?

What changes to the food stamp program would you propose? What about school lunches?

Chapter 8.

What has happened to the average weight of Americans over the past 40 years? What effect has it had on lifespan?

Is your bodyweight the government's responsibility? Why or why not?

Are fat or soda taxes effective policies in terms of significantly lowering the public's weight?

What other policies have been proposed to curb obesity? What are their effects?

Why have obesity rates risen in recent years? Does it matter why?

Chapter 9.

What policies are being proposed to support local foods?

Are local foods good for the local economy?

Are local foods good for the environment?

Are local foods healthier?

Chapter 10.

How does Lusk's vision for the future of food differ from that of the food police?

Describe your ideal food system of the future. What changes need to be made for such a future to be realized?