

CONGO SQUARE
MARKET

Food for Dignity & Democracy

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Consumer Issues Conference
October 9th, 2014
Laramie, Wyoming

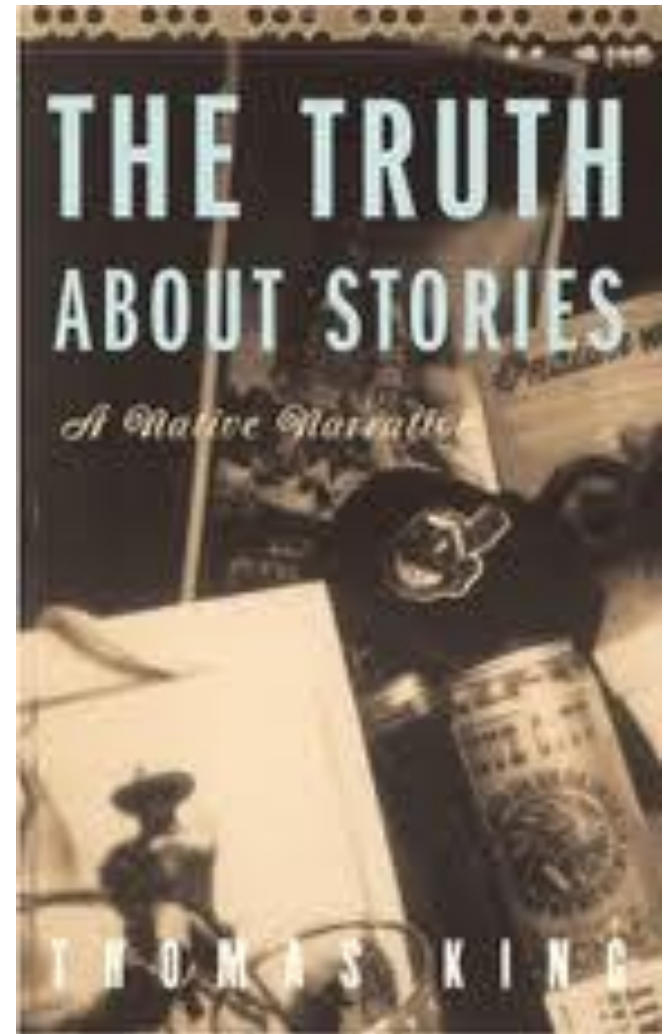
4-8pm every Friday
Through September 3rd

Southside Community Center
105 E. First St. Wyo

The Truth about Food Stories

“Do the stories we tell reflect the world as it truly is, or did we simply start off with the wrong story?” -King 2003: 26

“Want a different ethic? Tell a different story.” -ibid: 164



Framing: stories we tell ourselves about our food

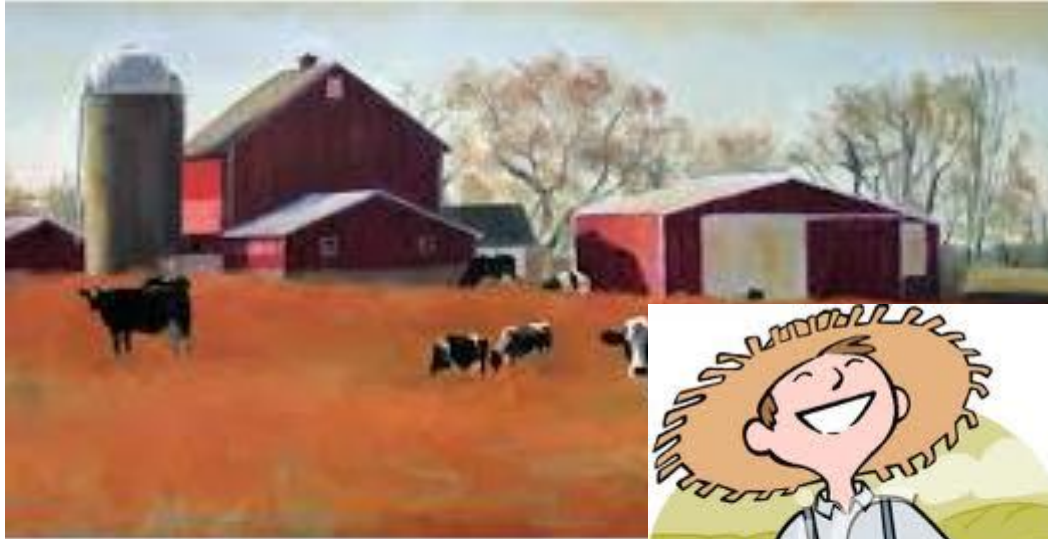


Framing Food Systems: the story



This is farming

Framing Food Systems: the story



This is a farmer




FIGHTING RURAL HUNGER

Monsanto has teamed up with Feeding America, ADM, and the Howard G. Buffett Foundation to help farmers fight rural hunger in America.

[Learn More >](#)

INVEST AN ACRE






Hunger Has A Cure



November 14th - December 25th

MONSANTO

Food • Health • Hope™



This is how to feed the world

Framing Food Systems: the story

ADS ON TIME EVERYTHING!
www.westcoastsupermarkets.com

FOODsmart
Festival Center
1326 Crestwood Blvd.
Store Hours:
Sunday-Wednesday 7 am-11 pm
Open till Midnight on Friday & Saturday
Phone: 582-0400

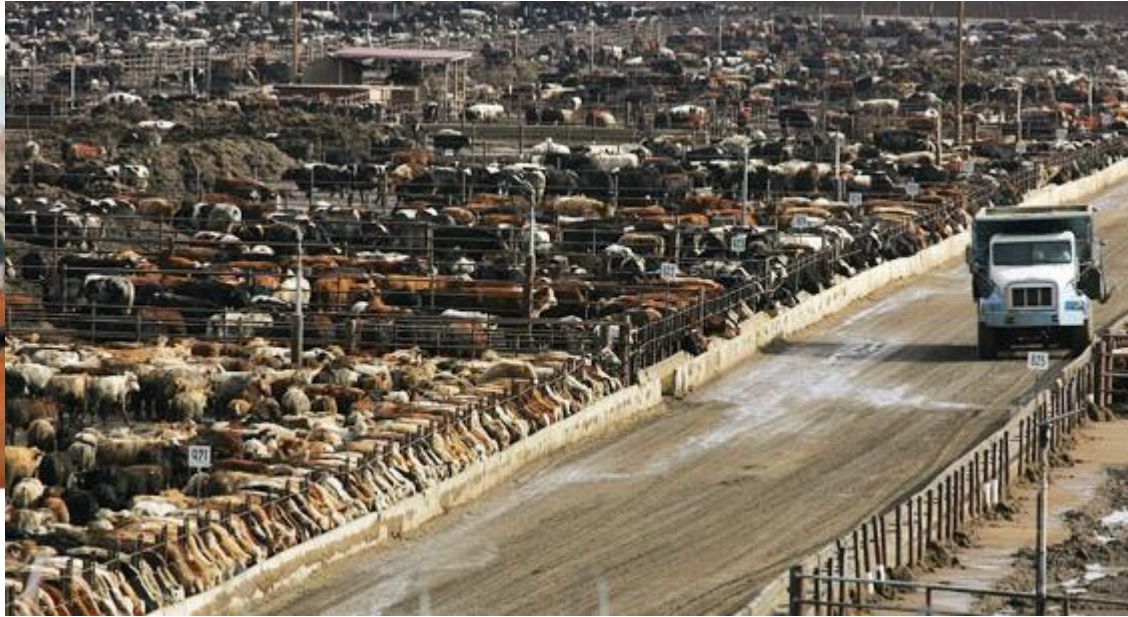
**Fresh Values
In Store This Week!**

| | |
|---|---|
| Whole Boston Butts \$1.49 | Premium Angus Boneless English Roast \$2.88 |
| Family Pack Boneless Ribeye Steaks \$4.99 lb | Family Pack Fresh Ground Beef \$1.99 lb |
| Flavorite Canned Vegetables 59¢ | Blue Bell Ice Cream \$4.49 |



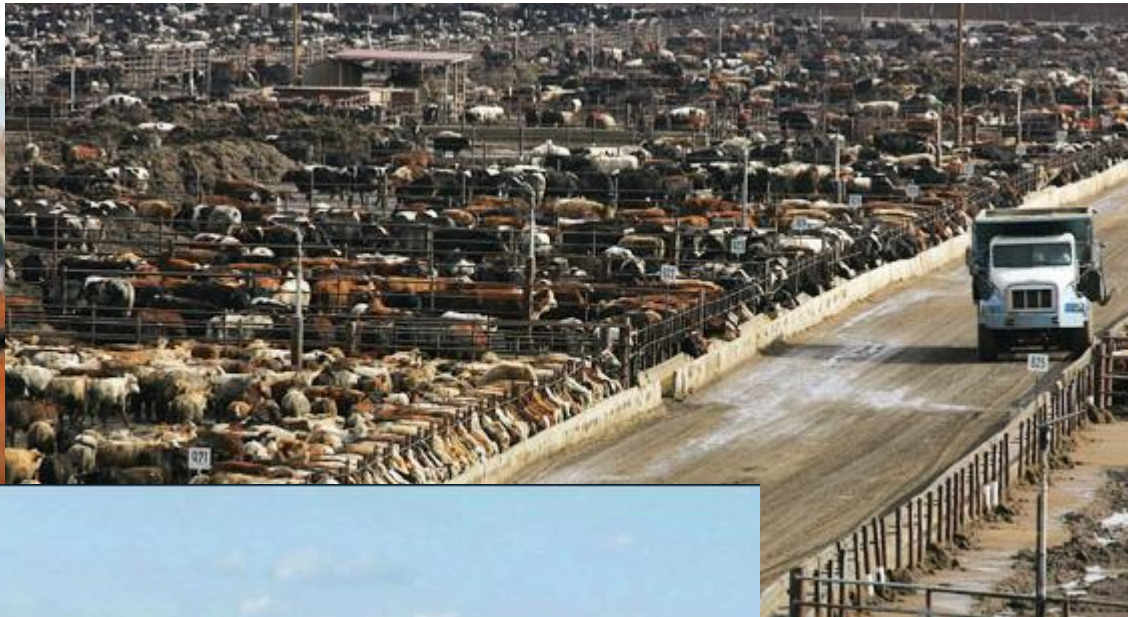
We must keep food cheap so poor people can afford it

Other sides of the story



This is a feedlot

Other sides of that story



This is growing
the feed for it

Other sides of that story



These are
sharecroppers

Other sides of that story



In many ways, so are these



Other sides of that story



These are migrant farmworkers.

Other sides of that story



Peasant farmers feed the world.
(producing 62% of our food)

Other sides of that story

Study: Ogallala Aquifer being drained by U.S. farmers

Aug. 28, 2013 at 7:21 PM | 0 comments

Is There A Way To Stop Floridan Aquifer Depletion?

By **Kathryn Allaben** on November 6th, 2013

Merced County is sinking; researchers blame over-pumping of groundwater

BY J.N. SBRANTI

jnsbranti@modbee.com November 21, 2013 Updated 8 hours ago

Other sides of that story

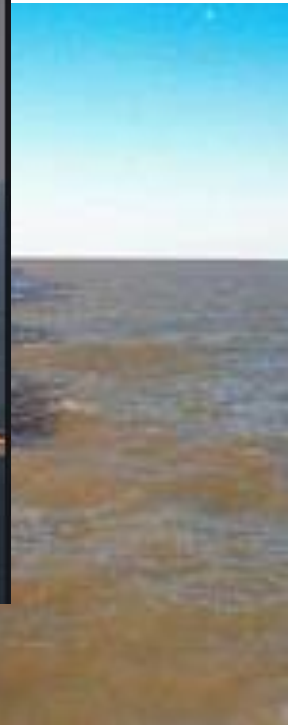


With Dry Taps and Toilets, California Drought Turns Desperate

By JENNIFER MEDINA OCT. 2, 2014

The New York Times

Other sides of that story



The emerging and truer story...



"WARNING: This hamburger may be hazardous to your health. Why the American food system is bad for our bodies, our economy and our environment - and what some visionaries are trying to do about it."

August
2009

... with a happier ending?

“Want a different ethic? Tell a different story.”

–Thomas King, *The Truth About Stories*, p164

The Food Dignity project: mapping, measuring, and telling alternative stories



Food Dignity Partners

5 community initiatives

- **East New York Farms! (ENYF!)**, United Community Centers, Brooklyn, NY
- **Whole Community Project (WCP)**, Cornell Cooperative Extension, Tompkins County, NY
- **Feeding Laramie Valley (FLV)**, Action Resources International, Albany County, WY
- **Blue Mountain Associates (BMA)**, Wind River Indian Reservation, WY
- **Dig Deep Farms & Produce (DDF)**, Deputy Sherriff's Activities League, Alameda County, CA

4 higher education partners:

- **Cornell University**
- **University of Wyoming**
- **Ithaca College**
- **University of California, Davis**

US food system issue frameworks

| | Obesity | Hunger | Food Security to Sovereignty |
|------------------|--------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <i>Strategy</i> | Interventions | Safety net | Democracy, local control |
| <i>“Experts”</i> | Academics, professionals | Agencies | Citizens |
| <i>Outcome</i> | BMI, behavior change | USDA survey measure | Equity, dignity, democracy |
| <i>Cause</i> | Lifestyle choices | Ignored | Systems (econ, political, food) |
| <i>Politics</i> | Right to liberal | Liberal | Radical |

Morals of our food dignity stories?

A priori:

1. We need living wages that can buy good food at its real cost.
2. Industrial food produces enough to feed us all now, but is starving our grandchildren. We must develop alternatives.
3. Food, like air and water, is not (just) another commodity.
4. In a democracy, people have a right to a strong say in their food system.
5. Dignity is an inherent right. Yet, food insecurity, as well as many anti-hunger programs, erode dignity.

...stories



...selection of cucumbers, beets, squash,
...will run every Thursday through the sec-
Photo by Alejandra Séba



Photo credits: BMA, me

Wind River

...to Brooklyn

alternative stories



Photo credits: E

East New York Farms! Brooklyn

the story told about Wyoming



there's only one kind of food you can grow in Albany County

every rumor is based on some truth



56-day growing season
in Laramie

poor soils

semi-arid climate

every truth can have a different story



Breaking ground at LaBonte Park Community Gardens

fresh food access requires vision, hard work, and multiple knowledge sources



achieving sustainable food dignity means telling a new story



equity in democratic leadership is only achieved through intentionality



the new story about food in Wyoming ...



is beautiful

Thank you!

Food Dignity is supported by Agriculture and Food Research Initiative Competitive Grant no. 2011-68004-30074 from the USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture (www.fooddignity.org)



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Agriculture

National Institute
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