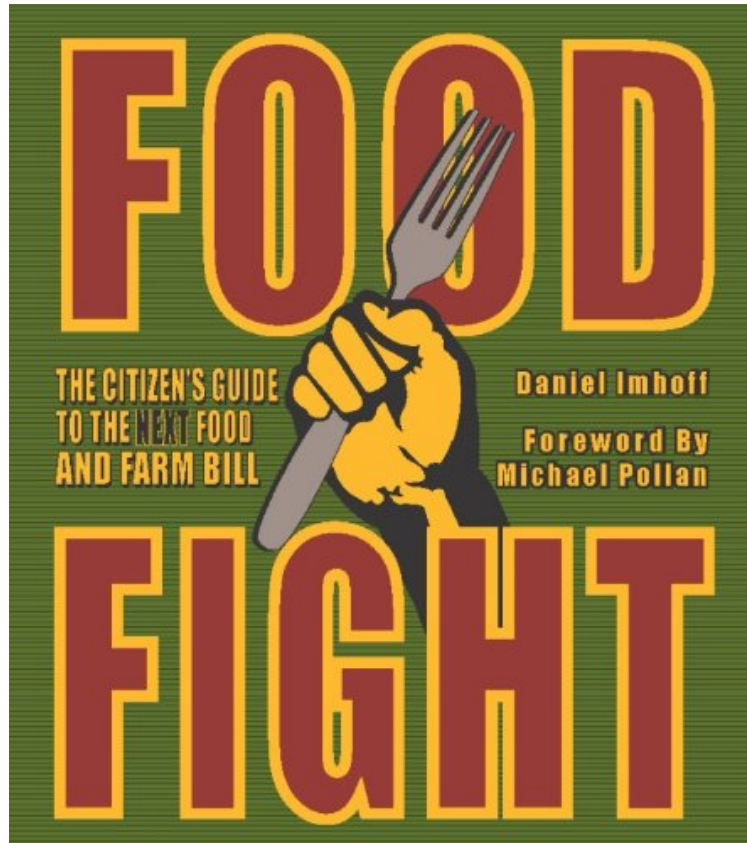


[Read download] Food Fight: The Citizen's Guide to the Next Food and Farm Bill

## Food Fight: The Citizen's Guide to the Next Food and Farm Bill

*Daniel Imhoff*

*audiobook / \*ebooks / Download PDF / ePub / DOC*



 Download

 Read Online

#496005 in eBooks 2012-07-16 2012-07-16 File Name: B008164L50 | File size: 23.Mb

**Daniel Imhoff : Food Fight: The Citizen's Guide to the Next Food and Farm Bill** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Food Fight: The Citizen's Guide to the Next Food and Farm Bill:

9 of 9 people found the following review helpful. Emergency at hand By E. N. Anderson All citizens of the United States should read this book, and many outside the US could well use it. It exposes the grim truth about American agriculture: it is massively distorted by the subsidy system. Subsidies go almost exclusively to large-scale producers of a handful of basic commodities, largely maize (41% of all), cotton, wheat, sugar and soybeans. This greatly lowers the price of these items, distorting the market. One result, explored in detail in the book, is unhealthy diet; sweeteners--high-fructose corn syrup and sugar--are artificially cheap, and thus find their way into almost everything. Processed starches and soybean oil are also artificially cheap. So are meat and dairy products, which get some subsidies and benefit from artificially cheap feeds. Americans wind up with poor health, because the "bad" foods are cheaper and also because the subsidy-enriched giant agribusiness and food processing firms advertise heavily. (The book does not mention it, but one particularly annoying form this advertising takes is paying Fox News personalities to make constant, scathing, derogatory remarks about anyone who cares about good diet--calling such persons "food nazis" and making racist remarks about Michelle Obama when she shows an interest in better foods.) Another point about subsidies is that they block change. The giant subsidized interests can get research steered to their wants. They also

block new initiatives, and of course they can outcompete any new or different farming, because the playing field is so far from level. We are thus locked into an increasingly dinosauric rural economy, with a few giant producers committed to an agricultural style that is less and less sustainable. Oil is also heavily subsidized, and the combination of subsidized oil and subsidized commodities make food cheap in the short run--but in the medium term (let alone the long term) there will be trouble. Oil is already moving up in price, though "peak oil" is not yet. When that peak comes, oil prices will rapidly increase, and farming will have to change quite dramatically. The environment also suffers. Conservation funding, already ridiculously small in the US, is routinely cut by Congress from funds allocated in farm bills. This is not just a matter of charismatic fauna; we are talking about the basics--soil, water, plant cover, and protection of prime farmland from urban sprawl. At the rates of urbanization that prevailed before the 2008 crash, California would have lost its last farm around 2050. As the book points out, simple national security should make us stop this. Democrats who love government spending and Republicans who love even the worst big businesses have long agreed on funding this depressing farm economy, and only the more sincere of the libertarians (i.e., those who are not just Republicans who do dope but love subsidies) have really critiqued the farm bills. Imhoff does not tip us off about his politics; his excellent collection of proposed solutions include some libertarian ones and some more governmental ones. This is one issue that could very well bring down the United States. Yet it remains obscure. Everyone needs to read this book.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars  
By Lonnie W. Morris Jr.  
Good book on government letting Monsanto get away with poisoning America, for personel gain by wallstreet congress

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Food Fight  
By Kimberly  
I enjoyed this book because of the historical insights behind food and commodities. How the government feeds our children in school and how the government allows people to become obese and gives them more and more food stamps.

**Our Chance to Right the Food System:** Every five to seven years, Congress passes a little understood legislation called the Farm Bill. To a large extent, the Farm Bill writes the rules and sets the playing field for America's contemporary food system, determining what we eat, how much it costs, and where it is grown. You may not be happy with what you learn. With concise and witty analysis, historical framing, dozens of charts, illustrations, and photographs, this newly updated edition of Food Fight deconstructs this complex and fundamental policy and will spur you to action.

**LL LEARN ABOUT** The Farm Bill's connection to a national obesity epidemic  
Environmental implications of corn-based ethanol expansion  
Who wins and who loses from heavily subsidized industrial agriculture  
The myths of cheap food  
45 million Americans who face hunger on a regular basis  
A nationwide food movement based on public health, local farms, and stewardship  
If you eat, pay taxes, care about the health of our children and communities, the fate of family farmers, or our country's food security, this book is for you.