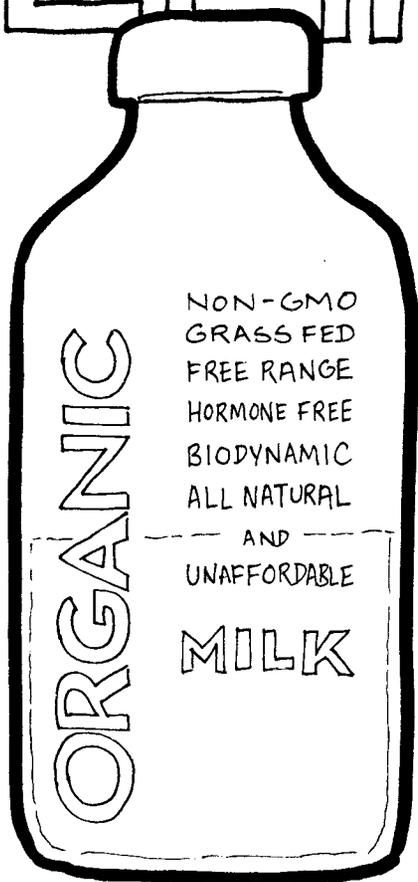
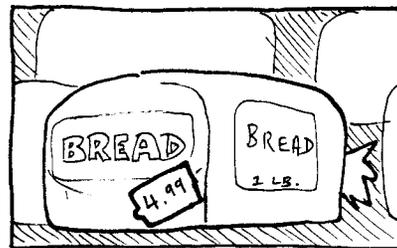


HALF EMPTY



THE FOOD CRISIS IN AMERICA

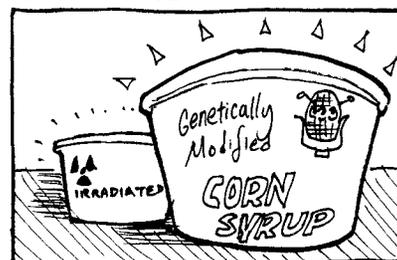
HAVE YOU
NOTICED...



THAT FOOD PRICES
HAVE SKYROCKETED?



THAT SMALL FARMERS ARE
LOSING THEIR LIVELIHOODS?



THAT CORPORATE AGRICULTURE
IS CAUSING HAVOC WITH
OUR FOOD SYSTEM AND
ENVIRONMENT?



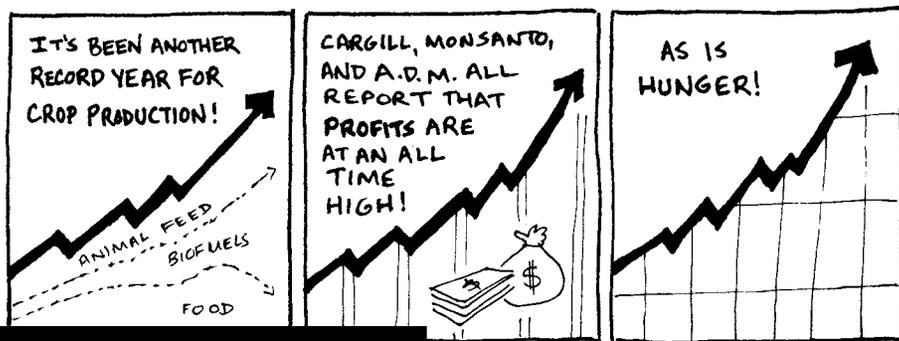
Story & Art

A. TWU

with input from
MATT DINTENFASS
and many others

**MAYBE IT'S BECAUSE WE'RE
IN A FOOD CRISIS!**

Where will it take us? Read on if you dare!



A LOOK INTO THE FUTURE...



We came out here because there's no supermarket in our West Oakland neighborhood...

This is real! West Oakland, a neighborhood of 14,000, has no supermarket.

... But then we get here and find out we can't afford anything...

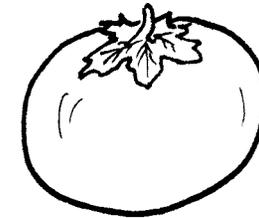
It's outrageous! I work for a food distributor, but I can't afford to feed my family!



There's plenty of food to go around: Hunger is an Economic Problem.

There's more than enough food to feed the world, and even most poor countries have extra. The problem is that people can't afford to buy readily available food.

In America, 1 in 10 people, and 1 in 6 families with children, face hunger. These numbers are from before the recent rise in food prices.



Food Riots: They're Real

Increasing demand for animal feed, biofuels, and land development, as well as rising energy costs, have pushed food prices up worldwide. High prices have triggered riots in Egypt, Bangladesh, and other developing nations.

How far away is it in the U.S.? Low income Americans have already been forced to buy less and lower quality food. A rice shortage in early 2008 led to hoarding and rationing even in the affluent Silicon Valley.

Prices may be high now, but they will only rise.



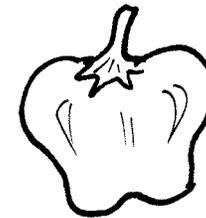


What is Food Sovereignty?

Food sovereignty is the people's right to define their agriculture and food policy. It includes the following:

- ❖ Prioritizing local agricultural production in order to feed the people.
- ❖ Peasants' and landless people's access to land, water, seeds, and credit.
- ❖ The right of consumers to be able to decide what they eat and how and by whom it is produced.

Source: Via Campesina



People's Grocery: Bringing Healthy Food to West Oakland

West Oakland, like many inner city neighborhoods, lacks a supermarket. Instead, its residents, many of whom are poor and lack cars, must buy their food from convenience stores. These stores have higher prices and lack fresh produce and other healthy choices.

Fed up, community residents have organized to provide a sustainable and healthy local food system with urban gardens, a farm, and weekly produce deliveries. www.peoplesgrocery.org





Climate change and food security

Climate change will affect food supply and where it is available. Physical changes will include:

- Shifting climate and agricultural zones to the poles.
- Production pattern changes from temperature
- Changes in rain patterns

The landless and the poor are most vulnerable and bear a disproportionate amount of the cost of climate change.

For more information visit the Climate Institute, climate.org



Neoliberal economic policies threaten food sovereignty

Neoliberal economics sees food as just another thing to make money on, disregarding its social importance.

For instance, speculators have put billions into the agricultural commodity markets, betting that food prices will continue to rise. As they try to outbid each other, they create a self-fulfilling prophecy. Even though it is difficult to gauge the full impact of speculation, it has certainly influenced prices.

For more information:
International Food Policy Research Institute
ifpri.org





Industrial Organic is Not the Answer.

To cash in on the lucrative organic market, industrial agriculture has created a high profitable system that exploits loopholes in the law.

Many of these industrial organic practices utilize unsustainable practices such as monocropping (planting a field with only one crop) that damage the land and make our food system vulnerable to pests and disease, or factory farmed animals confined in cages.

What's the solution? Small local farms.



Though I have to say I still count myself to be one of the lucky ones.

I might not be able to afford healthcare or electricity but at least I got all this grain sitting around...



Folks in the city are going to starve 'cause no one's going to be able to afford to plant next year's crop!





Agro-Ecology

Instead of using the chemical pesticides and fertilizer of industrial agriculture, agroecology works with nature to maintain the land's long-term sustainability **and** increase output.

Examples of agroecological practices:

Intercropping

Mutually beneficial crops are planted together to maintain an adequate supply of nutrients in the soil and provide other benefits such as pest management and erosion control.

Integrated pest management

Why spray when the pest's natural predator can do the work?

Decision making by those working the land

Traditional farming practices contain a wealth of knowledge and experience.

Agroecology is not just an idea – it's been successfully implemented both in the developed and developing world. Many universities offer it as field of study.

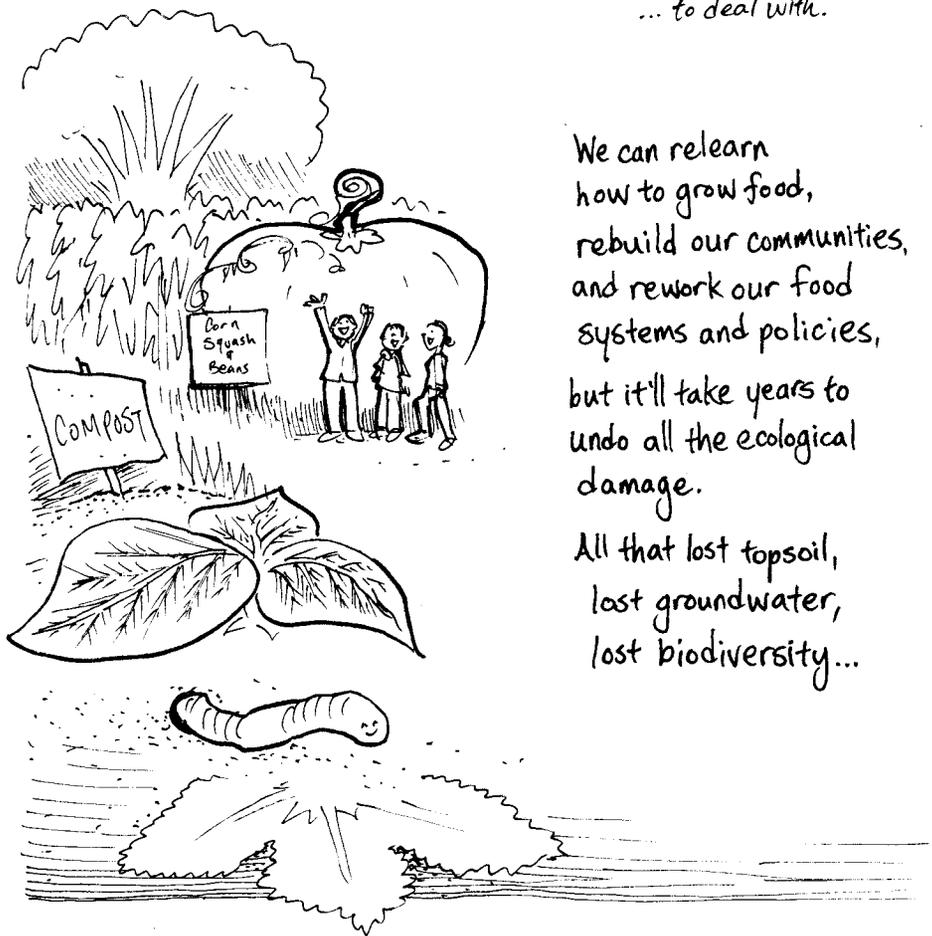
To learn more about agroecology, please visit www.agroeco.org





We'll make it through.
I must say though,
I wish our society hadn't
waited for things to get so bad.

Son, look out over this ways...
One day, all this will be yours...
... to deal with.



We can relearn
how to grow food,
rebuild our communities,
and rework our food
systems and policies,
but it'll take years to
undo all the ecological
damage.

All that lost topsoil,
lost groundwater,
lost biodiversity...



To Do List for Food Justice

- Eat less processed food.
- Start your own garden.
- Support small local farmers – shop at a farmer's market.
- Tell your elected representatives to change our food policies.

Resources

Food First

Information on food justice, policy, & development.
www.foodfirst.org

Family Farm Defenders

Learn about issues concerning local food systems:
www.familyfarmdefenders.org

Via Campesina

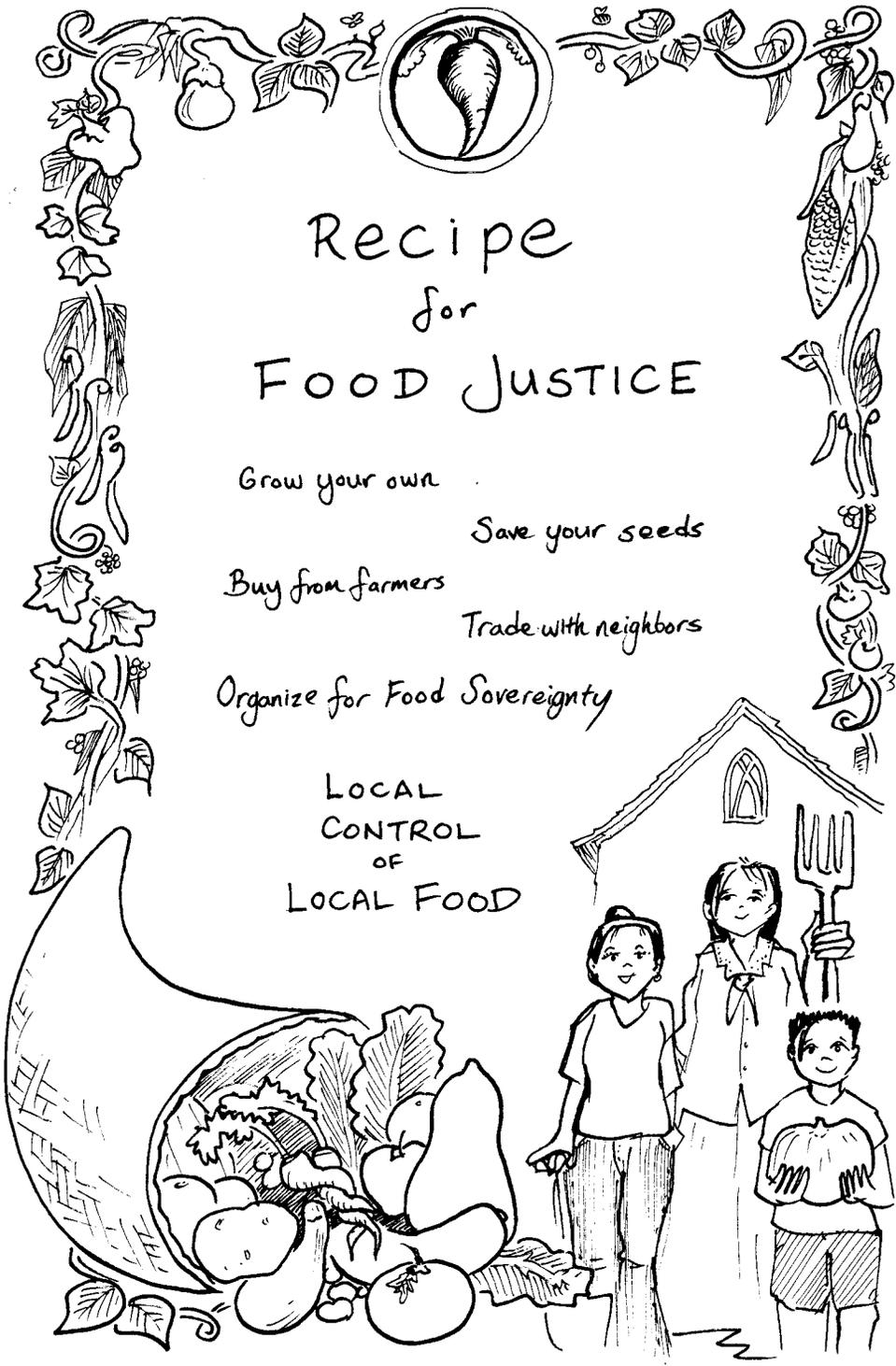
The international peasants' movement:
www.viacampesina.org

Local Harvest

Search for your nearest farmer's market here!
www.localharvest.org

My nearest farmer's market is:





Recipe
for
FOOD JUSTICE

- Grow your own
- Buy from farmers
- Organize for Food Sovereignty
- Save your seeds
- Trade with neighbors

LOCAL
CONTROL
OF
LOCAL FOOD



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food.firstcultural.com

To give feedback, request hard copies, or donate:
mail@firstcultural.com

A. Twu

Berkeley, California
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