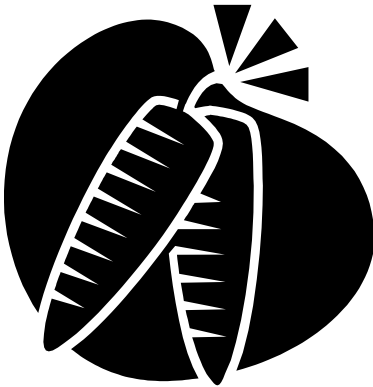


FOOD-RELATED ISSUES FOR TODAY



Health

- ▶ **Vegetarian** diet vs. standard American diet
- ▶ Growing epidemic of **Obesity** ▶ **Diabetes**
- ▶ Effects of pesticides, sugar, genetically altered foods
- ▶ Heart disease is the number one killer in U.S., followed by cancer: 80% of heart disease and 70 % of some cancers could be eliminated by changing our diets and our lifestyle.

Environment

- ▶ **Transporting food** around the world
 - ✓ **Fuel cost** and **results** to air, water
- ▶ **Growing practices**
 - ✓ pesticides
 - ✓ land use
 - ✓ replacing native growing practices (i.e. strawberries for corn)
 - ✓ Loss of seasonality (strawberries available all year long because they are now grown in warmer climates)
- ▶ **Loss of small farms** - creation of more poverty
- ▶ Many issues related to **large Agribusiness**
- ▶ **Livestock** account for 18% of greenhouse emissions

Justice

- ▶ **Agricultural workers**
 - ✓ Exposed to pesticides
 - ✓ Paid poorly (sometimes enslaved)
- ▶ **Agribusiness decisions** that harm food resources, produce and promote unhealthy foods because they are profitable

Ethical

- ▶ **Imperious American eating habits** - I want what I want and I want it **NOW!**
- ▶ Global warming, growing draught, shrinking numbers of animals and plants and other concerns loom - will we **DO** anything to reverse these trends?
- ▶ Immigration: We crack down on undocumented workers while needing them for jobs others are unwilling to do.
 - ▶ Livestock are increasingly using land and being fed grains that could have been used for growing food rather than feed.

Spiritual

- ▶ **The earth was created for people to nurture and treasure** - We have not been good stewards of the earth.
- ▶ **Food industry workers have been underpaid and treated badly**; food industry leadership have encouraged unsafe practices in farming in order to save money. We are called to love one another... if we honor our neighbor as ourselves, we want to treat people with respect . We need to love our neighbor more.