

SAVE OUR FUTURE

Beloved Earth Community of Riverside Church

In This Issue:

Big AG, Food Choices and Climate Change



"Food Shortage or Economic Crisis? Experts Say Poverty & Capitalism Are Real Drivers of Global Hunger."

While the war in Ukraine has disrupted grain supplies for the moment, the global food crisis is more a problem of access to food than it is of a shortage of food. People are jobless and don't have money to pay for food in the modern capitalist system."

The underlying problem is the industrial or corporate food system. Beginning in the 1980's, countries in debt were forced (by the G7 nations, IMF and World Bank) to reduce support to peasant farmers in their own countries and to import food from abroad (*Continued on p. 2.*)

Try A MEATLESS DISH FOR A GREENER PLANET:

Eastern Caribbean-inspired callaloo stew.
<https://www.wbur.org/news/2022/05/02/recipe-tamika-francis-callaloo-stew>

Racism, Fast Food & Fossil Fuels

- Racism in the real estate industry and in federal government policy created segregated neighborhoods. In the 1960's the fast food industry took advantage of the lack of businesses in these same POC and low-income neighborhoods and saturated them with franchises like McD, KFC, etc.
- Scholar Ashante Reese calls this process not a "food desert" but "food apartheid." The whole fast food industry is directly linked to factory farming and the meat industry. This link between fast food in poor neighborhoods and Big Ag results in deforestation as the rain forests are cleared to feed cattle, in the diversion of grain which could feed humans to feed chickens instead, and in unhealthy diets for humans.
- The world's meat-producing industry contributes more greenhouse gas emissions than all cars, trucks, airplanes and trains. This industry is also the main cause of deforestation and water pollution. (UN Food & Agriculture Organization, 2006)
- "The more damaging elements of the meat and dairy industry are effectively government-sponsored: millions of dollars of taxpayers' money is spent propping up factory farms and subsidizing the import of animal feed that's been grown at the expense of forests." (Clare Oxborrow, Friends of the Earth)



"Food Shortage or Economic Crisis"

(Continued from p. 1.)

Local peasant farming is more resilient and ecological and can adapt to climate change more easily. Industrial food systems are heavily reliant on fossil fuels because they require fertilizer and global shipping, both of which increase greenhouse gases significantly and thus global warming.

What is needed, according to Sofia Monsalve Suárez, secretary general of FIAN International, and Rachel Begner Kerr of the IPCC, is a fundamental transformation of our food system in the direction of agroecology and food sovereignty/democracy.

(Democracy Now, 6/23/22)



While the Beloved Earth Community is not formally a vegan organization, and includes people of diverse dietary preferences, we increasingly recognize the value of a vegan lifestyle for human health, animal welfare, and saving the planet.

Buy and Eat Local: Personal Action to Help Tackle Big AG

- Find and patronize greenmarkets, farmstands and fresh food box sites. (See Grow NYC's List <https://www.grownyc.org/greenmarket/ourmarkets>)
- Support community gardens and urban farms
- Tour the Teaching Garden on Governor's Island
- Try one of NYC's Vegan restaurants

MORE THOUGHTS ON FOOD AND LAND

- *If individuals aspire towards a righteous life, their first act of abstinence is from injury to animals.* --Tolstoy
- *The Garden of Eden is vegan. See Genesis 1:29-30.*
- *Amount of land required to feed one person for one year: a vegan, 1/6 acre, a vegetarian, 1/2 acre, a meat-eater, 3 acres.*



TAKE ACTION: LEGISLATIVE CHANGES FOR A BIG BOOST TO MOTHER EARTH

Write to Congress to support Senators Booker, Warren, Tester, and Merkley's newly-introduced bill: **Food and Agribusiness Merger Moratorium and AntiTrust Review Act of 2022.**

For more information see:

<https://www.booker.senate.gov/news/press/booker-tester-merkley-warren-introduce-bill-to-impose-moratorium-on-large-agribusiness-mergers>

Beloved Earth Community

We call Rivesiders to protest the climate crisis and care for the Earth through educational programs, greening the church, changing our lifestyles, and taking courageous political actions.

For more information, or to join, contact Susan Wersan <susanwersan@gmail.com> or Regina M. Tate <mariposa21355@yahoo.com>

Coming up:

Next Beloved Earth Meeting, Saturday, August 20, 3-5 p.m. via Zoom. To join contact Susan or Regina.

To view this issue online, go to <https://www.trcnyc.org/belovedearthnewsletter>.

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