

Figure 1

Good Food Timeline 1941-2014

The timeline* charts the evolution of the local food movement in the U.S. within the context of the four elements of good food: healthy, fair, affordable, green.

Turn to Appendix* for more details and information for each of the events found in this timeline and photo credits.

- 1941** 1. Recommended Daily Allowances (RDAs) are established to allow individuals to assess nutrient intake levels.
- 1942-1964** 2. The Bracero program between U.S. and Mexico brings in more than 4 million Mexican farm laborers.
- 1949** 3. The Agricultural Act of 1949 makes commodities available for distribution to needy people through school lunch programs, Bureau of Indian Affairs and public welfare organizations. 
- 1950** 4. The U.S. federal minimum wage is set to \$0.75 per hour, \$7.25 in 2013 dollars.
- 1955** 5. The first McDonald's restaurant, owned by Ray Kroc, is opened in Illinois. 
- 1960** 6. The rate of obesity for adults, defined as a body mass index over 30, in the U.S. is reported to be 13.4% of the population.
- 7. Four African-American university students begin a sit-in at a Woolworth store lunch counter in Greensboro, N.C., after being refused service based on their race. 
- 1962** 8. The first convention of National Farm Workers Association is held.
- 1964** 9. The Civil Rights Act of 1964 prohibits discrimination based on race, sex, ethnicity or religion.
- 1965** 10. The U.S. federal minimum wage is increased 50 cents per hour, to \$1.25 (\$9.27 in 2013 dollars).
- 1969** 11. The Black Panthers begin a school breakfast program for students; the program eventually is adopted by the U.S. government.
- 12. 2.8 million Americans are utilizing the federal Food Stamp Program (1.4% of the population).
- 1970** 13. The number of farmers markets in the U.S. is estimated at 340. 
- 14. The first national Earth Day is celebrated in the U.S.
- 1972** 15. The Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC) begins, safeguarding the health and wellness of pregnant women and children.
- 1974** 16. The rate of obesity for adults is reported to be 14.5%.
- 1975** 17. The U.S. federal minimum wage is increased to \$2.10 per hour (\$9.12 in 2013 dollars).
- 18. The California Labor Relations Act becomes law, allowing farm workers the right to boycott and to collectively bargain. 
- 1976** 19. The Farmer-to-Consumer Direct Marketing Act passes, prompting the development and expansion of direct marketing.
- 1979** 20. U.S. food expenditures as share of disposable personal income is 13.4%.
- 21. 7.6 million Americans participate in the federal Food Stamp Program (3.4% of population).
- 1981** 22. The U.S. federal minimum wage is set at \$3.35 per hour (\$8.61 in 2013 dollars).
- 1983** 23. The Migrant and Seasonal Agricultural Worker Protection Act (MSPA) passes to provide agricultural employees financial and safety protection in the workplace. 
- 1984** 24. The National Center for Food and Agriculture Policy (NCFAP) is founded to inform public policy on food, agriculture and natural resources.
- 25. The first community supported agriculture (CSA) enterprise opens in the U.S. 
- 1987** 26. The first food policy council forms in Knoxville, Tennessee
- 1988** 27. The first graphic USDA "food pyramid" is released to help individuals visualize a healthy, balanced diet.
- 1990** 28. The community supported agriculture (CSA) count in the U.S. grows to 60.
- 1991** 29. The federal minimum hourly wage in the U.S. is increased to \$4.25 (\$7.29 in 2013 dollars).
- 1992** 30. A new USDA food guide pyramid is released.
- 1993** 31. The Coalition of Immokalee Workers is founded to fight for fair worker wages.
- 1994** 32. The Nutrition Labeling and Education Act requires a nutrition label to be on all packaged foods sold in the U.S.
- 33. The number of farmers markets in the U.S. grows to 1,755.
- 1996** 34. The first pilot farm to school program is launched in California and Florida.
- 1998** 35. Rising costs for diabetes-related treatment accounts for 9.1% of U.S. medical care.
- 36. Walmart opens its first fully stocked grocery stores at supercenters. The chain has 4% of national food grocery sales.
- 2000** 37. The average hourly wage for non-supervisory farm workers is \$10.05.
- 38. The rate of obesity for adults aged 20-74 in the U.S. jumps from 23.2% in 1994 to 30.9%.
- 2002** 39. USDA Organic Food Regulations take effect. 
- 2004** 40. The number of farmers markets in the U.S. grows to 3,706.
- 41. All 50 states, Washington, D.C., the Virgin Islands and Guam are operating EBT systems to issue food benefits.
- 42. 25.5 million Americans are utilizing the federal Food Stamp Program (8.7% of population).
- 2005** 43. The new visual for the USDA food pyramid, MyPyramid, is launched. 
- 44. The community supported agriculture (CSA) count in U.S. grows to an estimated 1,046, an increase of about 1,740% since 1990. 
- 2006** 45. The Kellogg Foundation and partners develop indicators and measures of "good food."
- 2007** 46. The National Good Food Network is established to support growth of good food value chains.
- 47. "Locavore" is word of the year.
- 48. The National Farm to School Network is founded. 
- 2008** 49. The former federal Food Stamp Program is renamed "Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)." 
- 50. Nearly 1 in 4 (23%) of Native American and Alaska Native households are food insecure, versus 15% of all U.S. households.
- 51. Local food sales across the U.S. gross nearly \$5 billion. 
- 52. The prevalence of hunger in the U.S. is estimated at 14.6%, up from 11.9% in 2004.
- 53. The Food, Conservation and Energy Act (Farm Bill) of 2008 requests a study of areas with limited access to affordable and nutritious food.
- 2009** 54. The federal minimum hourly wage in the U.S. increases to \$7.25 (\$7.89 in 2013 dollars).
- 55. Taco Bell pays more for tomatoes so that farm workers can earn more.
- 56. The count of U.S. schools participating in the Farm to School program grows to 2,000 schools.
- 57. The CSA count in the U.S. grows to 2,932.
- 58. The American Medical Association passes a resolution supporting sustainable food systems.
- 2010** 59. Managerial occupations within the food chain are composed of 47.8% white men, and 8.6%, 4.3%, and 3.4% of Latino, Asian, and black men, respectively.
- 60. Obesity rate for adults aged 20-74 in U.S. is at 36.1%, up from 30.9% in 2000.
- 61. Let's Move! First Lady Michelle Obama campaign fights childhood obesity.
- 62. The Healthy Hunger-Free Kids Act authorizes funding and sets new policy for USDA's core nutrition programs in schools.
- 2011** 63. Nearly one in three African-American children (32%) live in food insecure households, as compared to one in six (16.0%) Caucasian children.
- 64. The number of farmers markets in the U.S. grows to 7,864.
- 2012** 65. The national average hourly wage for non-supervisory farm workers is increased to \$10.80.
- 66. Since 2010, \$77 million has been allocated to the Healthy Food Financing Initiative.
- 67. Nearly 86% of U.S. food service workers earn wages at or below the poverty level.
- 68. USDA's first-ever Farm to School Census shows 38,000 schools with 21 million students participating.
- 2013** 69. 47.7 million Americans participate in the SNAP program (15.1% of population), with SNAP rates at farmers markets doubling between 2011 and 2013.
- 70. The National Survey of Food Hubs report reveals that two-thirds are operating without grant funding, and one-half accept SNAP benefits.
- 2014** 71. Nearly 500 U.S. hospitals have signed on to the Healthy Food in Health Care program.
- 72. Walmart becomes the third major U.S. food retailer (following Whole Foods and Trader Joe's) to sign on to the Coalition of Immokalee Workers' Fair Food Program. 

*Timeline and Appendix developed by the MSU Center for Regional Food Systems. Timeline is part of the publication "The Local Food Movement: Setting the Stage for Good Food." <https://www.canr.msu.edu/resources/local-food-movement-setting-the-stage>

