

Geography Unit 3 Inquiry

My inquiry question for unit 3 is, "What could be done differently when it comes to the farming of animals for human consumption? I decided to approach this question by comparing the differences between factory farming to natural/traditional farming. Therefore I was able to understand the quality of the food that we are consuming and then determine how this can change.

Factory Farm:

A factory farm is a large, industrial operation that raises large numbers of animals for food, which focus on profit and efficiency at the expense of animal welfare. In factory farms, animals are divided, live in poor conditions, abused and manipulated. They are sometimes given a needle called RBGH to increase health. These animals include, cows, pigs and chickens, and the products they produce are milk, meat, eggs, etc. Factory farms were built so that this big industry could make double the food, for half the time and then make quick money from it. (economic perspective) Therefore the quality of the food, and the way the animals are treated in these farms, are not cared about. (social perspective)

Fact: For factory farming every year, over 665 million animals are killed for food in Canada.

Transportation:

After the animals are abused and manipulated, and the food has been packaged, it is then transported to grocery stores. This is having an effect on the environment from the pollution, when the food is transported. (environmental perspective)

Grocery Store:

Once the food is transported to the grocery stores, it is then sold for cheaper prices, then if it was produced from a natural farm. (economic perspective) People often tend to buy these foods, because they are cheaper and more affordable, but do we really know where the food is coming from and how healthy the food is? I do, because I did an inquiry assignment on this topic but often times people that are buying and consuming these products are lied to. (social perspective)

Farmers Market:

The food that is produced in traditional farms is sold normally right by the farm, as a farmers market. The prices for these products are often more expensive than products at the grocery store, because it was all produced hand made, rather than machines. Even though it's a healthier option for us the consumers, we still tend to buy the food coming from factory farms because of affordability reasons. (economic perspective)

Traditional/Natural Farming:

Traditional farming is the ancient food production system and the original type of agriculture it is has been practiced for thousands of years, but sadly is decreasing and is slowly being replaced with factory farming. We are taking for granted the land we have! Even if you have a garden on your own property, it's still considered a traditional way to farm, and will be a sustainable choice. (special significance) We are still producing the same products as factory farming, but traditional farming is a healthier and more humane option. (social perspective) Where animals can be free, and not chained up or divided, the food is much healthier for our diet, and it requires a lot less transportation. (environmental perspective) If the government put a stop to factory farming and for all these farms to change back to the traditional way, we would have a healthier diet. There might be a fued at first about the amount of money people are paying for food, but if we educate humans on why this is a more sustainable option they will learn to understand. (political perspective)

Humans:

As we know these animals in factory farms are injected with needle that contain of RBGH medicine to increase health and growth hormones. Anything that happens to the animals will have an impact on the quality of the food, that we then eat, causing many health issues. Also, the stressful and crowded conditions of factory farms make it easy for disease to spread, which can also lead to food safety risks. When cattle are packed into feedlots full of manure, bacteria can get on their hides and transfer into slaughterhouses where bacteria on animals can contaminate thousands of pounds of meat. (social perspective) What's worse is that our government, is deregulating the inspection system for meat and poultry by allowing company inspectors to replace government inspectors, and allowing factory farms to increase their line speeds, making it almost impossible to ensure close inspection of animals before they head to processing. (political and economic perspective)

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