

4Good Student

Professor Savard

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Final Research Paper

Due to the entrance of the United States of America into World War II, dehydrating food gained popularity since it allowed food to have a longer shelf life and was easy to carry and prepare. This trend continued to gain more popularity with a variety of different food after the war, especially with the invention of the freezer. Now-a-days—with the assistance of the modern world's advance technology—the United States' food supply relies on just a few corporate giants, chemicals, and science. The rise of corporate food production has greatly impacted agriculture and ranching; farmers, ranchers, and factory workers; and consumers due to the lack of government regulation and the advancement of technology.

Agriculture and ranching have transformed from the fruits of our labor to the experiment of scientists and corporate giants. Monsanto has played a major role in agriculture as they have been successfully able to genetically modify a seed that is resistant to their herbicide—RoundUp. Since their genetically modified seed “offer[s] farmers a convenient way to spray fields with weed killer without affecting crops” (Barlett and Steele 133), crops are able to be produced cheaper and have a higher yield which results in cheaper market prices which consumers constantly demand. Consumers should evaluate the science and chemicals that go into their food if crops are able to resist a specific herbicide. The connection between farmers and ranchers with the earth and livestock is unceasingly diminishing as more and more tasks are taken over by

machines as “the industrialization of cattle-raising and meatpacking over the past two decades has completely altered how beef is produced—and the towns that produce it” (Schlosser 150). We have become desensitized to today’s cruel techniques for ranching as “animals are crowded so close together it looks like a sea of cattle” (Schlosser 150). Since we are now longer taking part in agriculture, the value of food decreases—both nutritionally and spiritually. These traditional tasks that are being taken over by machines cause humanity to lose knowledge and connections to the land. Straying from traditional methods of farming and ranching may also bring us one step closer to the possibility of robot invasion or robot apocalypse. “Eight chicken processors now control about two-thirds of the American market” (Schlosser 139) which results in a higher chance for meat to be contaminated as they are processed in fewer locations. Aside from fewer locations, the large processing plants are much difficult to maintain and keep sanitary. Thankfully, more people are becoming conscious and concerned about what goes into their food which has caused organic food to gain popularity. More people seem to follow Michael Pollan’s rule when it comes to grocery shopping as they “won’t find any high-fructose corn syrup at the farmers’ market” (11). Clearly produce at the farmers’ market is more fresh and brings a more traditional process of the production cycle of food. Consuming food purchased at farmers’ markets results in fresher ingredients, greater nutritional value as well as taste, less consumption of chemicals, and less pollution and other safety concerns from factory farms.

In addition to the misery of cattle, the ranchers themselves are typically miserable as well as “the sort of hard-working ranchers long idealized in cowboy myths are the ones most likely to go broke today” (Schlosser 136). Since consumers continue to demand cheaper prices on food, ranchers are “selling cattle at break-even prices or at a loss” (Schlosser 136) which prohibit them from being able to afford to provide for their families. Consumers fail to realize the

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