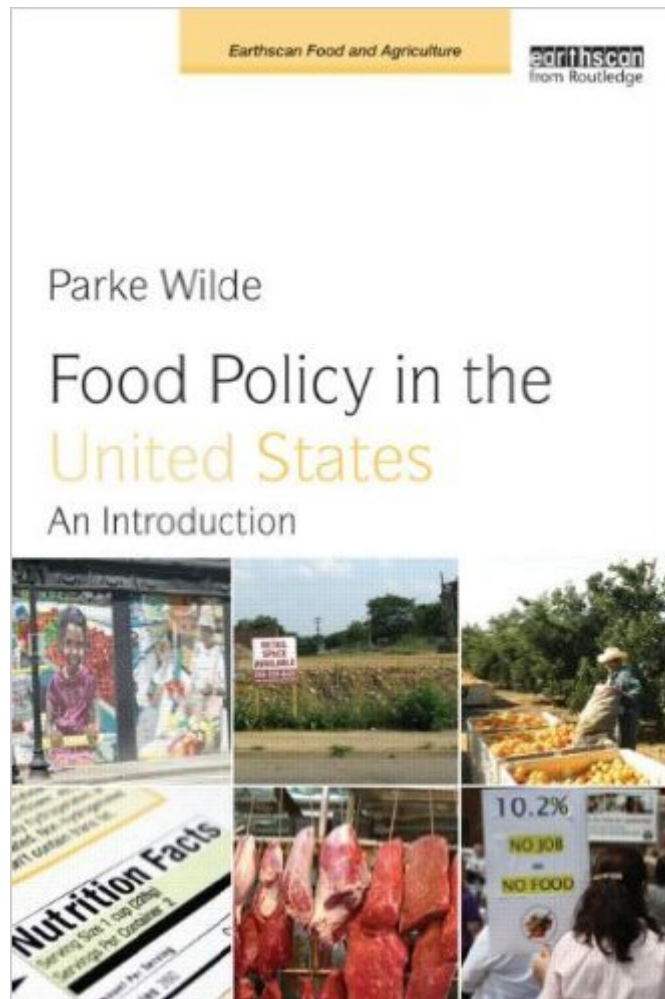


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Food Policy In The United States: An Introduction (Earthscan Food And Agriculture)



Synopsis

This book offers a broad introduction to food policies in the United States. Real-world controversies and debates motivate the book's attention to economic principles, policy analysis, nutrition science and contemporary data sources. It assumes that the reader's concern is not just the economic interests of farmers, but also includes nutrition, sustainable agriculture, the environment and food security. The book's goal is to make US food policy more comprehensible to those inside and outside the agri-food sector whose interests and aspirations have been ignored. The chapters cover US agriculture, food production and the environment, international agricultural trade, food and beverage manufacturing, food retail and restaurants, food safety, dietary guidance, food labeling, advertising and federal food assistance programs for the poor. The author is an agricultural economist with many years of experience in the non-profit advocacy sector, the US Department of Agriculture and as a professor at Tufts University. The author's well-known blog on US food policy provides a forum for discussion and debate of the issues set out in the book.

Book Information

Series: Earthscan Food and Agriculture

Paperback: 256 pages

Publisher: Routledge; 1 edition (March 20, 2013)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1849714290

ISBN-13: 978-1849714297

Product Dimensions: 6.9 x 0.6 x 9.6 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.1 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.9 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (10 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #222,893 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #159 in [Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Politics & Government > Public Affairs & Policy > Environmental Policy](#) #440 in [Books > Science & Math > Agricultural Sciences > Food Science](#) #484 in [Books > Textbooks > Social Sciences > Political Science > Public Policy](#)

Customer Reviews

I work with Parke Wilde at Tufts University, so I'm a biased reviewer -- and a jealous one. I wish I'd written this wonderful guidebook to how our food system actually works. It distills his 13-week graduate course on U.S. Food Policy into 200 pages you can read next weekend. The book is intended as a textbook, but you don't need a class to get the idea. General readers can hum the

charts and data. The more academic stuff is presented in sidebars that add depth without interfering with the story line, which offers lively explanations of how Washington shapes our daily bread. These explanations are both clear and beautifully balanced. The book starts where food comes from, covering the environmental effects of agricultural production and international trade, then manufacturing, grocery stores and restaurants, food safety and labeling, advertising and health claims, and nutrition assistance programs especially for children in poverty. One surprise in the book is that it really does span all those topics. You won't find broader coverage of the U.S. food system anywhere. Each chapter is a quick, sure-footed tour of what academic specialists know but food simplifiers would rather forget: that the real world actually is complicated, with unexpected twists and unintended consequences behind every abbreviated headline and bumper sticker. Whatever you now think about the U.S. food system, every chapter will have some news for you. And if you've already taken sides in our national food fight, this book will open up your assumptions and help you see where others are coming from. Food politics can be crazy-making, but it need not end in tears. This book will help you inform the conversation and change tomorrow's food system for the better.

I teach a course on US Food and Nutrition policy and this book has been sorely needed for some time now. It's well-written in an accessible format, really helps students understand the intricacies of food policy in an unbiased and evidence-based way, it states when the evidence is mixed or absent, and provides motivation to students to reach out for additional resources for further understanding. I am planning to use this book as the core text in my course again. Dr. Wilde also has an accompanying blog which is a useful resource for students navigating the topics and trying to make sense of recent events. I highly recommend this for a course textbook and for those with a passion for understanding food policy!

Parke Wilde has done an excellent job at providing a survey of food policy in the US. He goes into detail on the economics of food production and government policies. An excellent book for anyone interested in the economics of food.

Professor Wilde does an excellent job of helping navigate the intricacies of what has become a complex and dysfunctional set of American food policies. A must read for anyone interested in the politics behind their food and how food does or does not get to where and whom it needs to go to.

As Parke states quite simply right off the bat: "This book offers an introduction to food policy in

the United States. He wrote it in part because there wasn't anything parallel to this he felt was suitable for the graduate course he teaches on the same topic. But it also brings together Parke's expertise on the subjects covered, developed over many years of research, writing, and teaching on the subject. That makes this book stand out for providing a good overview and assessment of U.S. food policy covering multiple components, synthesized into one text. As such, it is not only suitable for food policy courses, but for anyone who wants a good overview of this complex arena, with its approachable style and concise analyses.

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