

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910822161703321
Autore	Blatt Harvey
Titolo	America's food : what you don't know about what you eat / / Harvey Blatt
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Cambridge, Mass., : MIT Press, ©2008
ISBN	0-262-26865-5 1-4356-6797-2
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (347 p.)
Disciplina	363.19/20973
Soggetti	Food industry and trade - Health aspects - United States Agriculture - Environmental aspects - United States
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Bibliographic Level Mode of Issuance: Monograph
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references (p. [269]-329) and index.
Nota di contenuto	Old Mcdonald has no farm: he dies, she dies, sold -- Soil character and plant growth: nature's magic -- Grain farming: the basic crop -- Organic food: as nature intended -- Genetically modified food: food fights among adults -- Chicken, eggs, turkey, and duck: fowl weather -- Cattle, milk, swine, and sheep: raising cholesterol -- Seafood: the killing fields -- Fruits and vegetables: plants to cherish -- Food processing: what is this stuff we're eating -- Eating poorly and too much: poor health and body bloat.
Sommario/riassunto	We don't think much about how food gets to our tables, or what had to happen to fill our supermarket's produce section with perfectly round red tomatoes and its meat counter with slabs of beautifully marbled steak. We don't realize that the meat in one fast-food hamburger may come from many different cattle raised in several different countries. In fact, most of us have a fairly abstract understanding of what happens on a farm. In this book the author gives us the specifics. He tells us, for example, that a third of the fruits and vegetables grown are discarded for purely aesthetic reasons; that the artificial fertilizers used to enrich our depleted soil contain poisonous heavy metals; that chickens who stand all day on wire in cages choose feed with pain-killing drugs over feed without them; and that the average American eats his or her body weight in food additives each year. He also asks us to think about the

consequences of eating food so far removed from agriculture; why unhealthy food is cheap; why there is an International Federation of Competitive Eating; what we don't want to know about how animals raised for meat live, die, and are butchered; whether people are even designed to be carnivorous; and why there is hunger when food production has increased so dramatically. This book describes the production of all types of food in the United States and the environmental and health problems associated with each. After taking us on a tour of the American food system, not only the basic food groups but soil, grain farming, organic food, genetically modified food, food processing, and diet, the author reminds us that we are not powerless. Once we know the facts about food in America, we can change things by the choices we make as consumers, as voters, and as ethical human beings.

---