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Food Waste

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Food Waste

BY DAMON COX

The Numbers of Food Waste

- Per capita food waste has increased 50% since 1974
- 1.6 billion tons of food wasted each year
- \$1.2 trillion worth of food is either lost or wasted every year
- North America has 200% of the food it needs
- 40% of all food produced each year is not eaten
- 870 million people worldwide are malnourished





Who is Wasting the Food?

- A single person household wastes more food per person per week than larger households
- Consumers aged 16-24 years waste more than twice as much food as consumers over the age of 65
- Reasons why younger consumers waste more:
 - New freedom (new driver, going to college, no longer at home with parents)
 - Only need to think of themselves
 - Lack of budget
 - Lack of awareness

Problems of Food Waste

- Wasted water, resources, and labor hours
 - It takes 27,154 gallons of water to irrigate one acre of crops and a cow drinks 3 to 30 gallons of water a day
 - ▶ 40% of all food produced is wasted
 - Putting water into food that is either not making the stores or thrown away
 - Resources such as land and machines cost money to operate
 - Money, machines and land could be put to better use
 - Farm hours are long and wasted hours could be spent doing task that need more attention
- People living in hunger
 - Grocery stores are scared to donate due to a fear of being sued
 - "Bill Emerson Good Samaritan Food Donation Act" protects them from being sued
 - A lot of food thrown out can be donated





Problems of Food Waste

- Unhealthy food consumption
 - > 30% of the worldwide population as of 2017 is obese
 - United States has an obesity rate of 36.2%
 - Price is a huge factor
 - Cheeseburger and fries for \$2.50 vs salad for \$8 to \$15
 - Consumers on a healthy diet will spent \$550 more per year than a consumers on a non-healthy diet
- Environmental Problems
 - Landfills
 - ▶ Food waste and food packaging make up 45% of all landfills
 - Cause methane gas which leads to green house affect
 - Causes ice caps to melt
 - Trash in the ocean
 - 100 million die every year from trash in the ocean (food packaging, plastic)





Causes of Food Waste

- Packaging
 - Can be too hard to remove food from packaging
 - 25% of all residential food waste is because of the packaging size or design
 - Misleading expiration dates

Portion sizes

- Between 1983 and 2003:
 - Hamburgers expanded 23%, a plate of Mexican food grow 27%, and snacks are 60% larger
- A dish that use to say, "serves eight" now only says "serves four"
- On average, restaurants are serving portion sizes two and half times larger than standard sizes





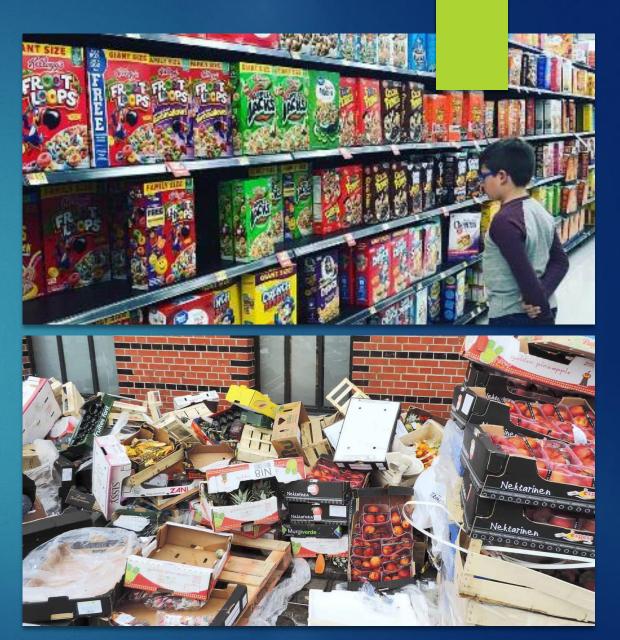
Causes of Food Waste

Products

- Too many choices
 - Ten brands that make the same flavor
- Appearance of the product
 - High standards of grocery store keeps food that is fine to eat out of the store

Overstocking

- If a food item is by itself, consumers think there is something wrong with it
- Need more items around it to make consumers want it
- Promotions
 - Consumer gets a "two for one deal" on a food item
 - Does not end up eating it the second item, only bought it because of the deal
- Lack of awareness
 - Consumers do not connect actions to consequences
 - Younger consumers do not have as much knowledge



Recommendations

- Generating Awareness
 - Get communities to start a donation drive
 - Teach consumers at a young age
 - Encourage consumers to plan better on what they will eat for the week
- Get More Grocery Stores Donating
 - Make grocery stores aware of "Bill Emerson Good Samaritan Food Donation Act"
 - Add incentive for grocery stores
 - Set up programs for grocery stores
- Better Food Packaging
 - Designs that allow food to be exacted easier
 - More accurate expiration dates



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