

CHAPTER 12:

FOOD

How Do We Feed Ourselves?

You should be familiar with these words:

- agriculture
- organic matter
- genetically modified organisms (GMOs)
- agrodiversity
- genetic erosion
- livestock
- concentrated animal feeding operations
- aquaculture
- overfishing
- bycatch
- food system
- food security
- processed foods
- overnourishment
- obesity
- Fair Trade

By the end of this chapter, you should understand...

- ★ Outline advances in modern agricultural practices (eg. irrigation systems, synthetic fertilizers, GMOs, CAFOs) (12.1)
- ★ Assess negative impacts of agriculture on the environment (on soil, water, air, ecosystems...) (12.2)
- ★ Discuss how monocultures and GMOs have decreased agrodiversity and lead to genetic erosion, and the problems with this. (12.3)
- ★ Debate the pros and cons of aquaculture. (12.4)
- ★ Reflect on how the food systems we rely on have changed over time. (12.5)
- ★ Critique examples of sustainable practices in agriculture (eg. restoring soil, Fair Trade, food choices) (12.6)