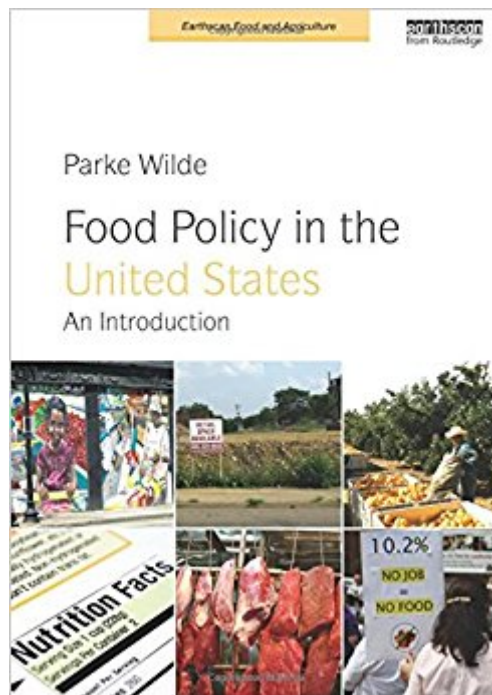




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# Food Policy In The United States: An Introduction (Earthscan Food And Agriculture)



## 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

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## Customer Reviews

"Food Policy in the United States is essential reading for anyone who wants to understand how our food system really works or to take action to change it. Professor Wilde provides a tough but balanced and decidedly nonpartisan overview of the facts behind the full range of policy areas among them agricultural support, safety, dietary guidance that affect food

production and consumption. If you want to join the food movement to improve the system, here's how to find out where to start." Marion Nestle, professor of nutrition, food studies, and public health at New York University and author of *Food Politics* "More than ever before, those of us who care about U.S. nutrition policy recognize that we need to pay attention to a whole wide world of policy and economic issues including farm policy, food manufacturing, supermarkets, anti-hunger programs and more. For my students--and my colleagues--it can seem daunting! Without oversimplifying, *Food Policy in the United States* opens the doorway to these broader conversations and debates." Miriam Nelson, Ph.D., Nutrition scientist, professor, and best-selling author of the *Strong Women* book series "This is a very engaging book on the key issues of the food systems and policies today. The topics and material make an excellent foundation for classroom discussion and learning. Parke Wilde asks provocative questions throughout that help to engage the reader and reinforce the importance of trying to understand the economic factors and policy process. I look forward to having this book available for students!" Helen H. Jensen, professor of economics and head of the Food and Nutrition Policy Division at the Centre for Agricultural and Rural Development, Iowa State University "Substance beyond many populist food politics-type books which have surged over the past decade distinguishes Dr. Wilde's contribution. His knowledgeable approach to underlying market (and government) failure which motivates the food policy topic of concern comes from his own background and experience in academia, government and working with NGOs. Occasional notes on advocacy come as a refreshing "so what" for the reader." Neal Hooker, Professor of Food Policy in the John Glenn School of Public Affairs, Ohio State University

Parke Wilde is Associate Professor, Friedman School of Nutrition Science and Policy, Tufts University, Boston, USA. He has a PhD in Agricultural Economics from Cornell University. He is past chair of the Food Safety and Nutrition Section of the Agricultural and Applied Economics Association and current member of the Food Forum of the Institute of Medicine. Previously, he worked for the Community Nutrition Institute and for USDA's Economic Research Service. Since 2004 he has run a highly-respected blog, 'US Food Policy: a Public Interest Perspective'.

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!

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.

This book was a good summary of the food policy climate in America today. As university faculty I found it practical to use in an introductory course for students.

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.

Good read even if you are not taking a class. Really helps breakdown a lot of misinformation and a clear read.

as expected

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 am currently reading this book for one of my classes. I normally don't enjoy reading most text books, but I am finding this book particularly helpful in understanding how food policy actually works. It is more complex than most individuals would imagine, but Dr. Wilde does an amazing job of breaking it down. I would also suggest you look up some of his videos online to get a better understanding. As one previous reviewer stated, you can probably read this in a weekend (if you really wanted to). As for myself, it will probably take me a week! Nevertheless, I am eager to read more! Lastly, I highly suggest this text book for individuals in agricultural business fields.

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