

US Food System Timeline

This timeline was created to ground ourselves in the history of our food system so we can better understand the land we stand on today. This timeline documents the exploitation of land and food workers over history and highlights examples of resistance from communities of color.

This timeline is an accumulation of others, including: National Farm Worker Ministry, UC Santa Cruz Center for Agroecology & Sustainable Food Systems, Western States Center, Social Justice Fund, Black Food Sovereignty Council, Dismantling Racism and Partners for a Hunger Free Oregon.

By understanding the past, we can strive towards a just food system that serves everyone.

First Foods

Native Americans have been living off the land for thousands of years tending to the land and waters for sustenance. They gathered, hunted and fished for foods, including salmon, deer, elk, roots berries.



Photo Credit: Sitka Conservation Society



Photo Credit: Confederated Tribes of Umatilla Indian Reservation

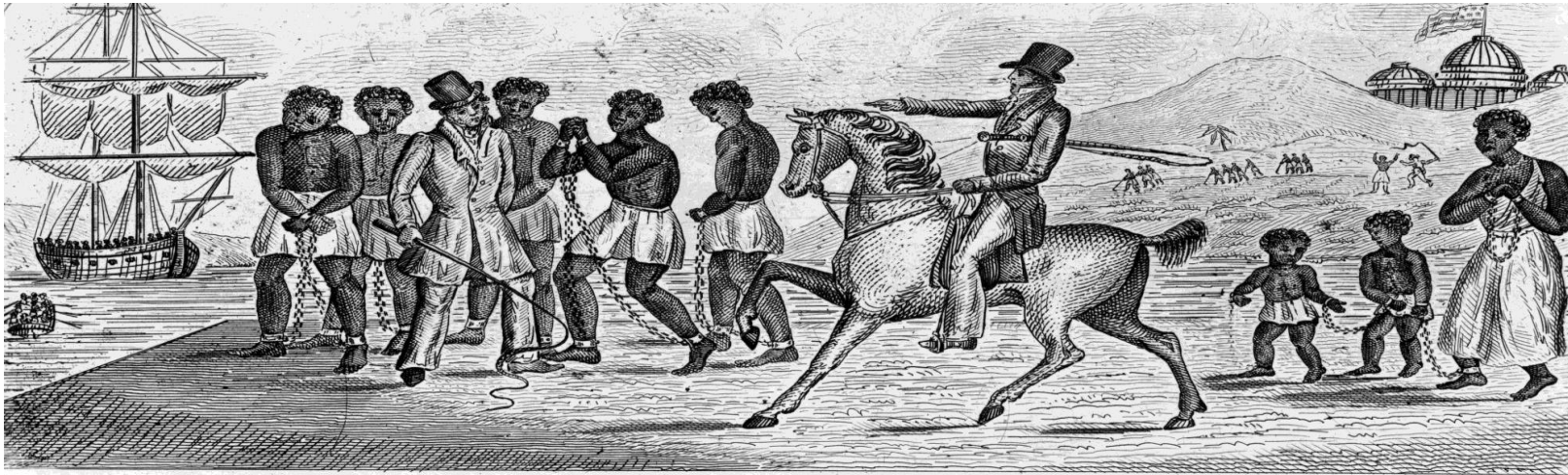
1497 – Contact & Colonization

- Columbus comes to the Americas in the name of Spain.
- Starting in the 1600s, land was colonized by Europeans seeking religious, political and economic opportunity. Leads to Native American genocide.
- At the time of his arrival, the Northern Hemisphere is populated with over 5 million indigenous peoples.*



1619 – Indentured Servitude & Enslavement

- Indentured servants are brought from England to work in fields in exchange for guaranteed passage.
- The need for more labor increases and the slave trade begins. The first shipload of enslaved Africans arrive in Jamestown, Virginia.
- Over 9.5 million Africans were forced to provide farm labor.



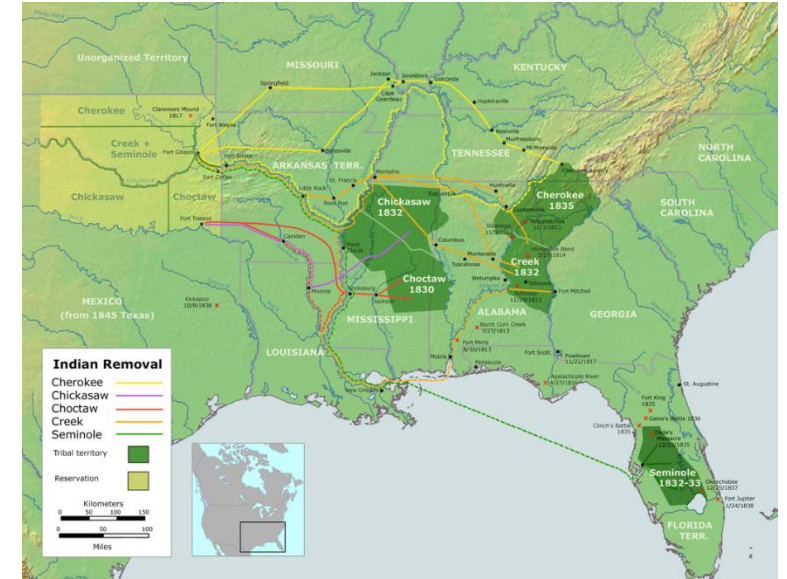
UNITED STATES SLAVE TRADE.

1819 – Free Seed Program

- US Government established a free seed distribution program through the Postal Service. Previously only wealthy landowners could exchange seeds.
- By 1855, over 1 million seed packages had been sent. By 1900, it was over a billion seed packages.
- This became one of the primary purposes of the USDA when established in 1862. One-third of the budget was devoted to the seed program.
- This program ended in 1924 after pressure from the American Seed Trade Association.

1830 – Indian Removal Act

- The Indian Removal Act of 1830 authorized President Andrew Jackson to negotiate land exchange treaties with Native American Nations, targeting those east of the Mississippi.
- This led to the Trail of Tears – the forced relocation of thousands of Cherokee, Chickasaw, Muscogee-Creek, and Seminole Indians. Many thousands die from exposure, disease and starvation.



1857 – Oregon Exclusion Laws

- Laws to discourage Blacks from settling in Oregon to ensure Oregon would develop as primarily white.*
- Oregon's state constitution bans "any free negro or mulatto, not residing in this state at this time" from living, holding real estate and making any contracts within the state.
- The punishment for living in Oregon was public whipping.
- Language is not removed from the Oregon Constitution until 2001.

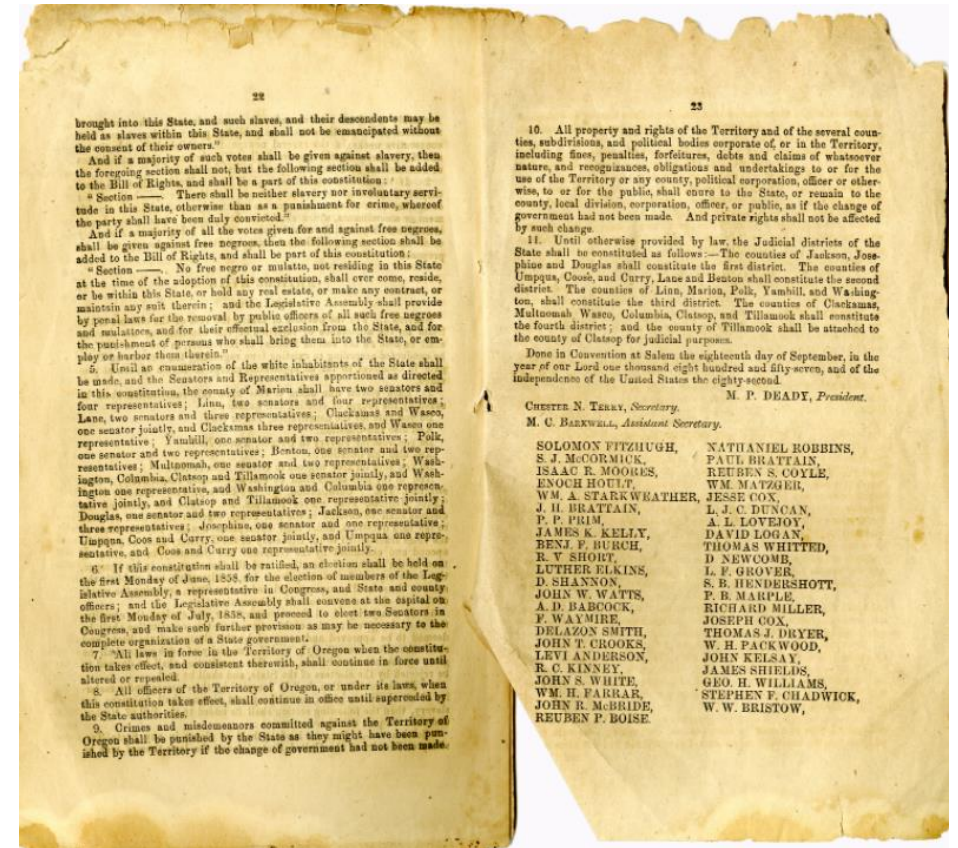


Image Source: Oregon Encyclopedia

1848 Treaty of Guadalupe-Hidalgo

- The US invades Mexico for control of land and resources. The Treaty of Guadalupe-Hidalgo is signed transferring over 55% of Mexican land to the United States.*
- This created the US/Mexican border. The expansion enabled the US to reach the Pacific and opened up valuable trade with Asia and new sources of cheap labor.**

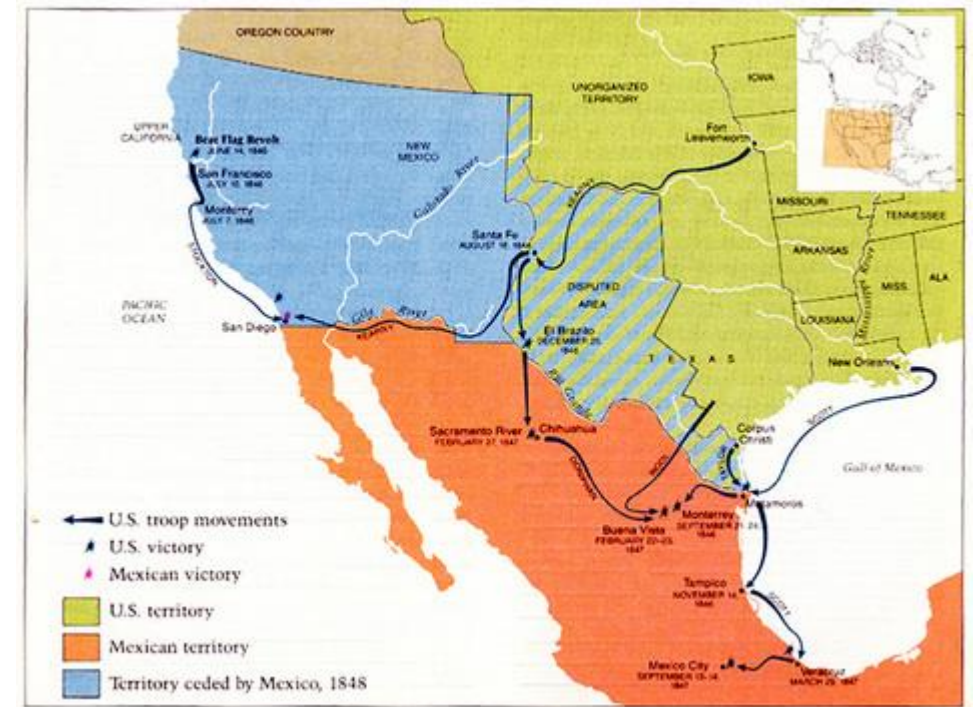
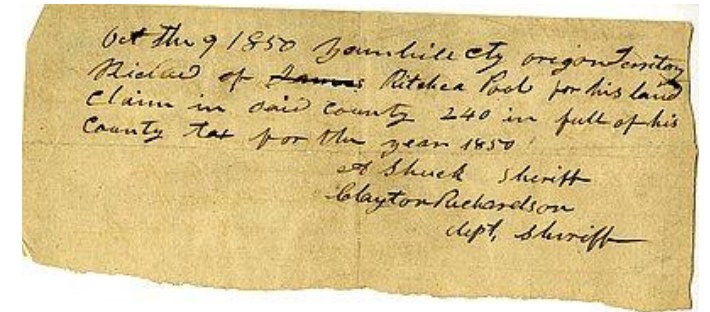


Image Source: The Atlantic

1850 – Oregon Donation Land Act

- “Granted to every white settler or occupant of the public lands, American half-breed Indians included, above the age of 18 years, being a citizen of the United States, or having made a declaration according to law of his intention to become a citizen.”
- 320 acres per person
- By 1855, 30,000 white immigrants came to Oregon with 7,000 making claims to 2.5 million acres of land.
- Remote parcels of land not settled on were procured as reservation land.



Oct the 9 1850 Yamhill Co Oregon
Michael of ~~Lewis~~ Ritchie Rob for his land
claim in said county 240 in full of his
County tax for the year 1850
at Shuck Sheriff
Clayton Richardson
clerk Sheriff

1862 – Homestead Act

- The Homestead Act makes over 50 million acres of Western Indigenous land available for settlement.
- Citizens are eligible for 160 acres if they agree to live and cultivate the land for five years.
- White homesteaders flood to these lands forcing nomadic Plains Indian nations to relocate to government reservations.

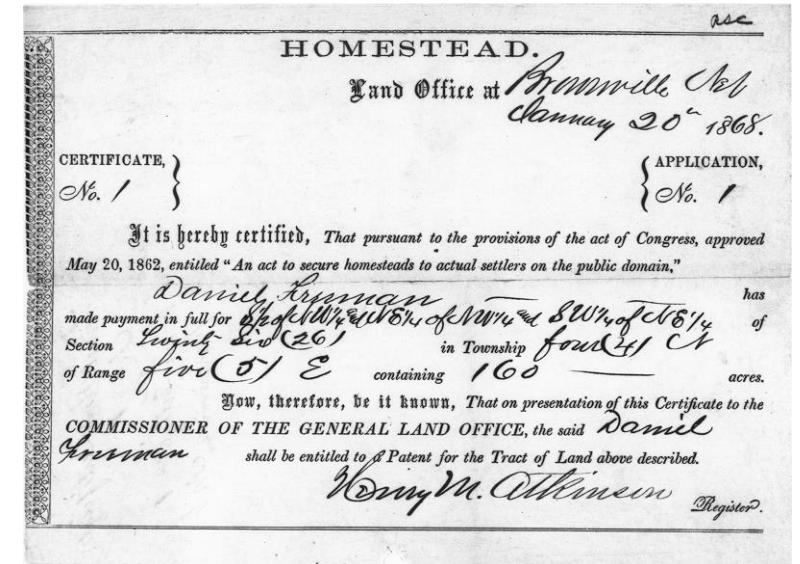


Image Source: The Wikipedia

1862 – Land Grant Colleges

- Institutions of higher education that received the benefits of the Morrill Acts of 1862 & 1890.
- The Morrill Acts funded institutions by granting federally controlled land to the states for them to sell, raise funds to establish the colleges. In 1890 cash was granted in lieu of land.
- Focus of schools is on agriculture, science, military science & engineering as a response to the industrial revolution.
- The act of 1890 required each state to show that race was not an admission criteria or else to designate a separate institution for people of color.

1862 – Oregon Exclusion Laws Cont.

- Oregon adopted a law requiring Blacks, Chinese, Hawaiians, and Mulattos residing in Oregon to pay an annual tax of \$5. If they could not pay the tax the state could require them to maintain state roads for \$0.50 a day.
- Interracial marriages are also banned in Oregon.

1865 – 40 Acres & A Mule

- President Andrew Johnson overturns General Sherman's promise of "40 Acres & a mule" to freed slaves after the Civil War.
- This would have redistributed roughly 400,000 acres of land to newly freed black families.*
- Instead, freed slaves had to seek employment and began sharecropping with their former slave owners.
- By 1930, only 1 in 10 African American farmers in the south owned their land.



Image Source: National Public Radio

1865 – Black Codes

- Established after the Civil War to limit the rights of Black people.
- The laws included requiring a special permit for Black people who wanted to work in anything other than agricultural labor, prohibiting them from raising their own crops and requiring them to seek permission to travel.
- Sets up a system of sharecropping where Black families rent small plots of lands from landowners. This often left sharecroppers owing more to the landowner (for tools, housing, food) than they were able to pay, forcing them into a form of legal servitude.
- Vagrancy Law allowed local authorities to arrest Black Americans and require them to complete involuntary labor.

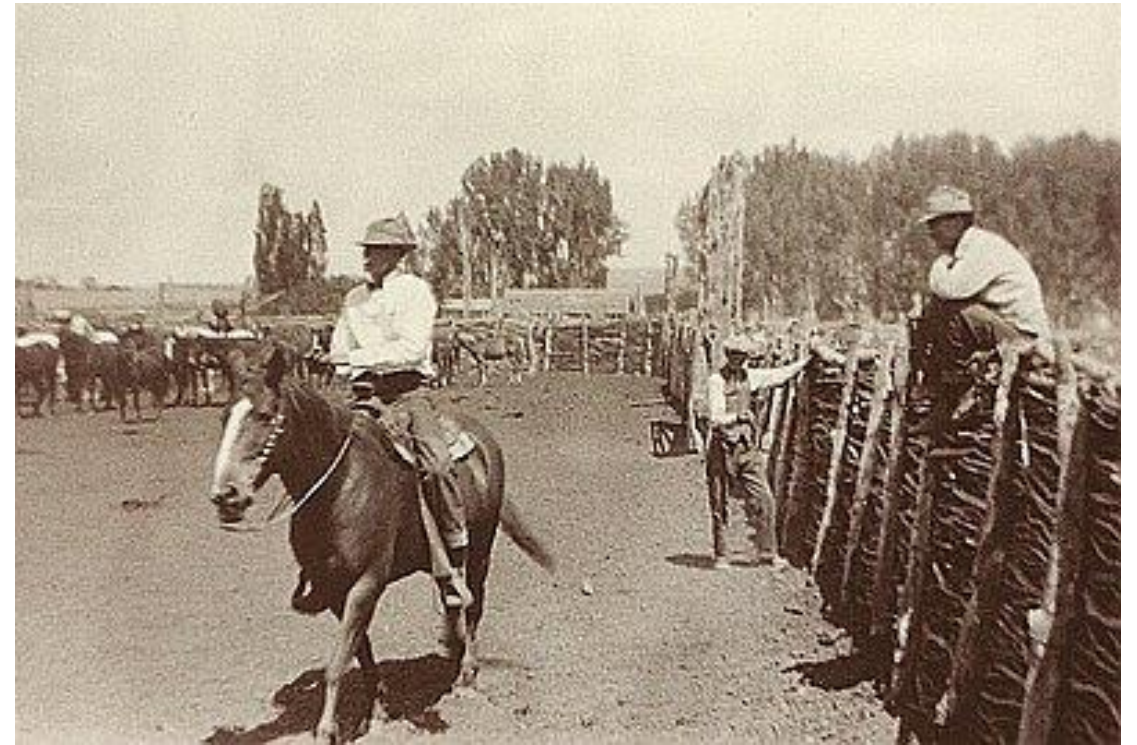
1868 – Burlingame Treaty of 1868

- The United States began importing Asian labor, granting them free citizenship through the Burlingame Treaty, to work in agriculture as African Americans moved into other industries.
- By 1886, seven out of eight farmers were Chinese.



1869 – Mexican Vaqueros

- Mexican vaqueros drove herds of cattle from California to Eastern Oregon & helps to develop ranching in that part of the state.



1882 – Chinese Exclusion Act

- The Chinese Exclusion Act bans immigration for Chinese laborers. This was the first law restricting an ethnic group from immigrating.
- Leads to increase in Japanese immigrants to Oregon to work in railroads, lumber, canning, and agriculture.
- Businesses in Oregon post signs that they did not employ “Asian help.”



Image Source: Wikipedia

1886 – Colored Farmers Alliance

- Established African American leadership and control over agrarian reform in the south.
- Members shared in agricultural techniques & innovations, joint purchasing and coordinated planting and harvesting efforts.
- Estimates that there were over 1 million members.




Image Source: NBClearn

1887 – Allotment Acts / Dawes Act

- The Dawes Act partitions Indian reservations and assigns individuals to land with goal to assimilate Native Peoples & transfer lands to white settlers.
- Heads of households were assigned 160 acres while single adults received 80 acres. “Excess” lands were open to homesteading.
- Indigenous land ownership plummeted from 138 million acres to 48 million.

INDIAN LAND FOR SALE

GET A HOME
OF
YOUR OWN
*
EASY PAYMENTS



PERFECT TITLE
*
POSSESSION
WITHIN
THIRTY DAYS

FINE LANDS IN THE WEST

IRRIGATED IRRIGABLE GRAZING AGRICULTURAL DRY FARMING

IN 1910 THE DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR SOLD UNDER SEALED BIDS ALLOTTED INDIAN LAND AS FOLLOWS:

Location.	Acres.	Average Price per Acre.	Location.	Acres.	Average Price per Acre.
Colorado	5,211.21	\$7.27	Oklahoma	34,664.00	\$19.14
Idaho	17,013.00	24.85	Oregon	1,020.00	15.43
Kansas	1,684.50	33.45	South Dakota	120,445.00	16.53
Montana	11,034.00	9.86	Washington	4,879.00	41.37
Nebraska	5,641.00	36.65	Wisconsin	1,069.00	17.00
North Dakota	22,610.70	9.93	Wyoming	865.00	20.64

FOR THE YEAR 1911 IT IS ESTIMATED THAT **350,000 ACRES** WILL BE OFFERED FOR SALE

For information as to the character of the land write for booklet, "INDIAN LANDS FOR SALE," to the Superintendent U. S. Indian School at any one of the following places:

CALIFORNIA: Hoopa	MINNESOTA: Onigun.	NORTH DAKOTA: Fort Yates.	OKLAHOMA: Con. Sac and Fox Agency.	SOUTH DAKOTA: Cheyenne Agency.	WASHINGTON: Fort Simcoe.
COLORADO: Ignacio.	MONTANA: Crow Agency.	OKLAHOMA: Anadarko.	OREGON: Klamath Agency.	WASHINGTON: Fort Spokane.	
IDaho: Lapwai.	NEBRASKA: Macy.	OKLAHOMA: Cantonment.	OREGON: Pendleton.	WASHINGTON: Fort Spokane.	
KANSAS: Horton.	NEBRASKA: Santee.	OKLAHOMA: Darlington.	OREGON: Roseburg.	WASHINGTON: Fort Spokane.	
KANSAS: Nadeau.	NEBRASKA: Winnebago.	OKLAHOMA: Muskogee.	OREGON: Siletz.	WASHINGTON: Fort Spokane.	
		OKLAHOMA: Pawnee.			

WALTER L. FISHER,
Secretary of the Interior.

ROBERT G. VALENTINE,
Commissioner of Indian Affairs.

1905 – Chinese Vegetable Gardens

- Downtown Portland used to be home to productive market gardens (20 acres) tended by Chinese immigrants.
- Produce was sold door to door.
- Discriminatory policies restricted their success. Chinese were not allowed to own land; land was vulnerable to development; and laws eventually prohibited the Chinese from selling their produce.



Image Source: Oregon History Project

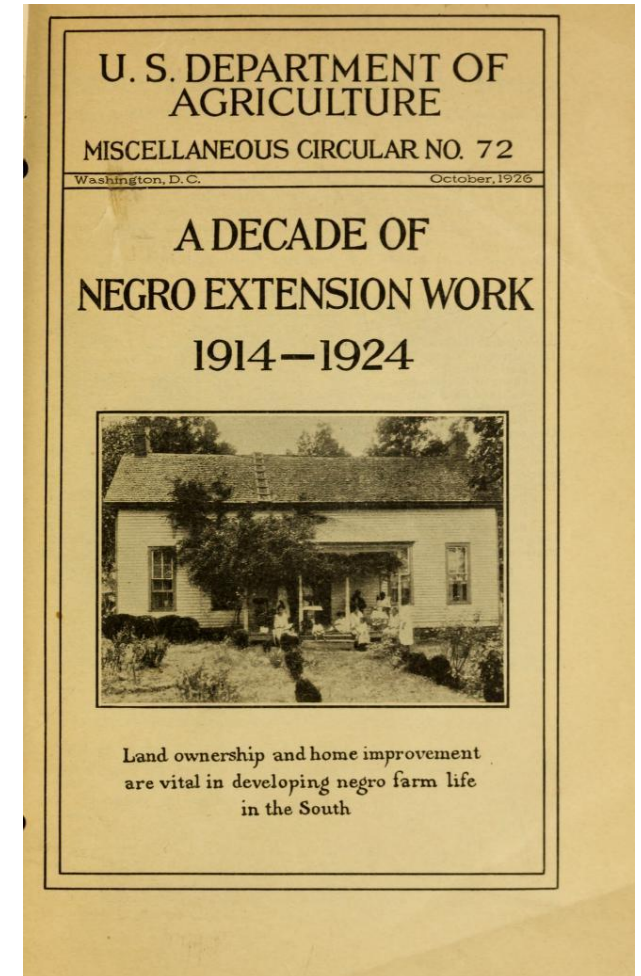
1914-1930 The Great Migration

- The movement of 1.3 million African-Americans out of the Southern United State to the North, Midwest, and West.
- African Americans migrated to escape racism, seek employment opportunities in industrial cities and to get better education for their children.
- By 1930 an estimated 1 million Blacks had left the South.



1915 – Negro Extension Work

- During the time of “separate but equal” Extension Services were separated.
- Separation existed until 1965 and now there’s one Extension network.
- The Negro Extension helped African American farmers with food preservation, housing, health, sanitation, farming, animal husbandry & cooperatives.



1917 – Asiatic Barred Zone Act

- The 1917 Asiatic Barred Zone Act barred all immigration from Asia. Mexicans were exempted from the anti-immigration law so they could provide labor during WWI.
- Between 1910-1925 Mexican workers were contracted to work on sugar beet farms.
- Farm workers marked the first Mexican families to settle permanently in the state.

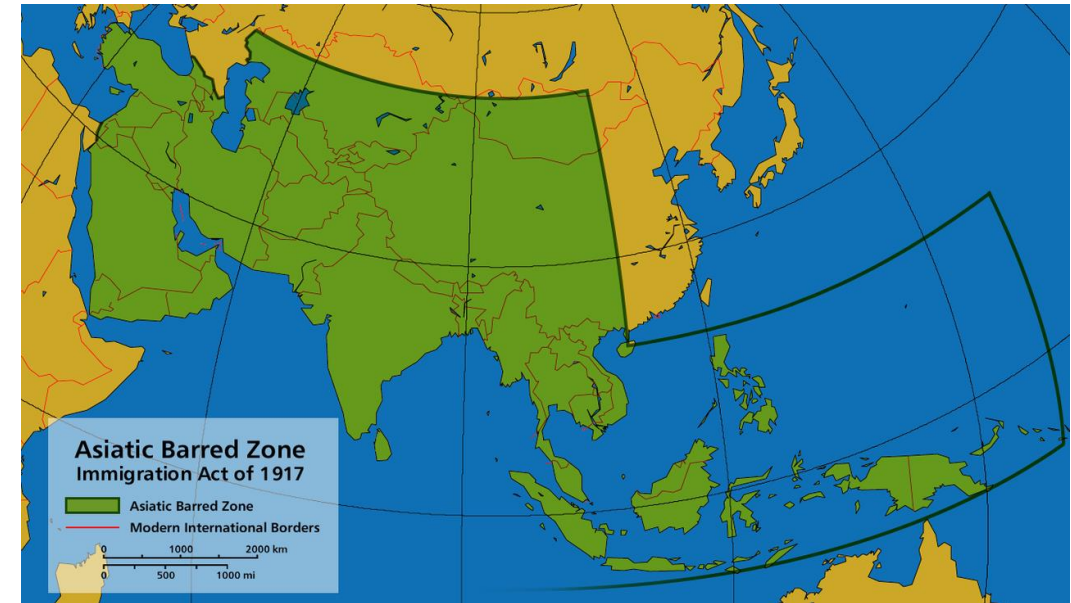


Image Source: Wikipedia

1917 – Victory Gardens

- Government encourages home gardens to support food supply during WWI & WWII and save money that could be spent on the military.
- Women lead the effort while men were fighting the war.
- 1/3 of vegetables produced in US came from Victory Gardens.



Image Source: Wikipedia

1923 – Oregon Alien Land Law

- Prevents Japanese & Chinese peoples from owning or leasing land.
- This law also prevents them from operating farm machinery.
- The Oregon Business Restriction Law allowed cities to refuse business licenses to first generation Japanese Americans.

88 (532)

OREGON VOTER ADVERTISING

December 30, 1922

ALIEN LAND BILL PASSAGE FORECAST

—
"Oregon Legislature Will Pass Legion Bill."—Wilbur.

—
The American Legion's anti-alien land ownership bill, which failed to get on the November ballot through lack of time to get necessary signatures, will be passed by the next legislature, announced George R. Wilbur of Hood River, department commander, at a meeting of the state executive committee held in Portland recently.

"I have sufficient pledges at the present time from successful candidates to the legislature to insure passage of our anti-Japanese legislation," he asserted. "The bill will be patterned after those now on the statute books in California and Washington and prevent Oregon from being the dumping ground for Japanese labor on this coast. Through the influence of the American Legion infiltration of Japanese settlers in the rich irrigated sections of central Oregon has been halted and the Hood River problem is less acute. The need of legislation, however, is vital."

(The Oregon Veteran, December, 1922)

1927 – Colored Merchants' Association

- A cooperative organization for black grocers to increase buying power and do collective marketing.
- “A movement looking towards the salvation of the Negro independent grocery stores, through cooperative buying and teaching the lesson and value of advertising.”
- Associated stores reported increases in profits.
- In 1930, 253 stores were a part of the network.
- By 1936 the CMA went bankrupt and chain stores replaced small grocers after the 1930s.



Image Source: Shareable

1930s – Great Depression & Mexican Repatriation

- 500,000 – 1 million Mexican Americans were mass deported or pressured to leave for Mexico. 60% of those deported were US citizens and worked on farms.
- Mexicans were blamed for the economic downturn coinciding with the Great Depression and Dust Bowl.
- Jobs reserved for white Americans to relieve unemployment.



1933 – Agricultural Adjustment Act

- Pays farmers to not grow food on a certain percentage of their land to reduce market glut.
- Government buys excess grain from farmers to release on the market if weather affects yields.
- Displacement of Black Farmers by restricting acreage and guaranteeing minimum prices for cotton.
- Includes the precursor to food stamps.
- Leads to the Farm Bill five years later.
- Today 1% of subsidies goes to vegetable production. 60% goes to subsidizing the production of corn and other grains.



1910s-1950s – Processed Foods

- Processed foods enter the food system:
 - 1910s: Oreos, Crisco, maple syrup, hot dogs
 - 1920s: Wonder Bread, candy bars, breakfast cereals, Spam
 - 1930s: candy bars, Kraft Macaroni & Cheese
 - 1940s: M&Ms, cake mix, dehydrated juice, instant coffee
 - 1950s: TV dinners, diet soda, cheez whiz, high fructose corn syrup
- Today, 70% of calories come from processed foods



Image Source: idsgn website

1938 – Fair Labor Standards Act

- Farmworkers are excluded from Fair Labor Standards Act benefits including minimum wage, overtime pay and requires employers to keep records of their employees.
- A farmer working on a farm that employs fewer than seven workers is not protected by FLSA.
- Minimum wage eligibility excludes farmworkers until 1966. However, overtime provisions still do not apply to farmworkers.

1940 – McDonalds & Fast Food

- Fast food – concept based on speed, lower prices & volume.
- In 2013, 80% of Americans ate fast food at least once a month. Nearly 50% ate fast food once a week or more.
- Approximately 4.7 million US workers are employed in food service, including fast food.



Image Source: Wikipedia

1942 – Japanese Internment

- More than 110,000 West Coast residents of Japanese descent are forced into internment camps. 4,500 are from western Oregon and 2/3 were American citizens.
- National needs for sugar beets (used in explosives) required extra labor. Japanese Americans who were being held at the Portland Assembly Center were recruited to work in the sugar beet fields in Malheur County.
- 400 Japanese American Farmers worked the fields.
- After the war, many Japanese families stayed in the area. 1,136 Japanese people lived in Malheur County according to the 1960 census.



Image Source: Oregon Historical Society



Image Source: OR Secretary of State

1942 – Bracero Program

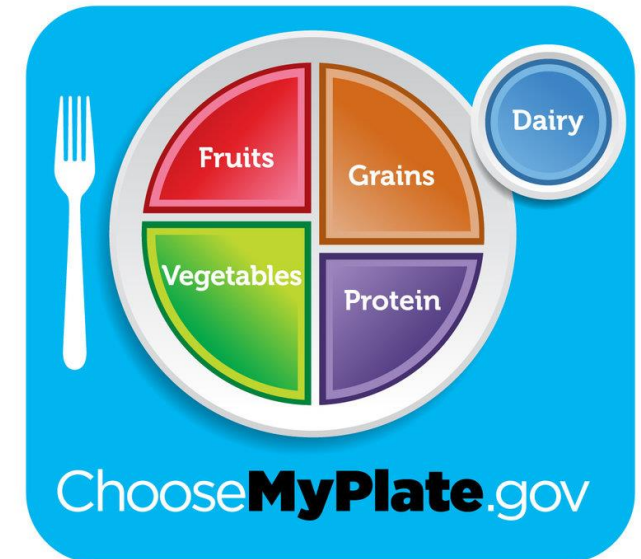
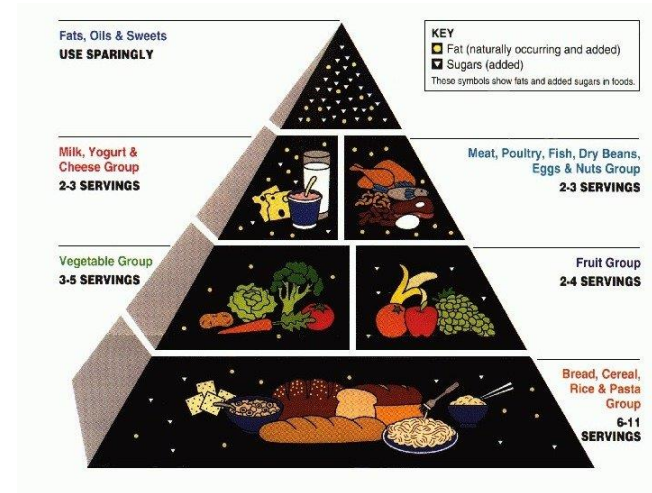
- A joint US-Mexico agreement that permits Mexican nationals to work in the US on a temporary basis at lower than domestic workers.
- Intended to alleviate wartime labor shortage in agriculture.
- Over 15,000 Mexican laborers came to Oregon under the Bracero program.
- Ended in 1964 because of the abuse to Bracero workers. In Oregon, the program only lasted until 1947.



Image Source: Wikipedia

1943 – The Basic 7 (food pyramid)

- USDA food guide / dietary guidelines.
- Focused on disease prevention.
- Shaped by scientific data, the time in history, and industry.
- Impacts labeling, diets, school lunches.



1943 – H2A Guestworker Program

- Created initially to hire Caribbean workers to cut sugar cane in Florida.
- Allows agricultural employers to hire workers from other countries on temporary work permits for agricultural jobs that last 10 months or less.
- Employers must show first that they have tried and were unable to find US workers to meet their labor needs.
- Employers must provide minimum wage, workers comp and free housing.
- Guestworkers are exploited and denied the right to change jobs and do not benefit from bargaining power. No pathway to citizenship or legal status.
- Accounts for 10% of the agricultural labor force today.

Top Ten Occupations Requested for H-2A Workers

Occupation	FY2012	% of H-2A
General farm worker	15,777	18.5%
Tobacco	8,153	9.6%
Oranges	5,552	6.5%
Cotton	4,384	5.1%
Onions	4,105	4.8%
Hay & straw	3,967	4.7%
Sheepherder	3,517	4.1%
Apples	3,360	3.9%
Nurseries & greenhouses	3,166	3.7%
Corn	3,086	3.6%
Total for Top Ten	55,067	64.6%
<hr/>		
Total H-2A positions requested	85,248	100%

Note: Data reflect number of worker positions certified by the Department of Labor, not petitions approved by USCIS.

Image Source: Brookings Institution

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Image Source: Brookings Institution

1946 – National School Lunch Act

- In response to the concerns that “many American men had been rejected for World War II military service because of diet-related health problems.”
- Its purpose was to provide a market for agricultural production and to improve the health and well-being of the nation’s youth.
- The Act provided both USDA Foods & cash support.

1942-1948 Vanport

- During WW11 Portland became a major shipbuilding hub for the war and thousands of workers arrived causing a housing shortage
- Vanport was built in a 110 days to temporarily house 42,000 workers & their children.
- After the war, whites were able to move out leaving Vanport most African American (redlining prevented them from moving).
- In 1948, a flood displaced 18,500 (1/3 Black) people in two hours, leaving them homeless.



Image Source: Portland City Archive & Records



Image Source: Oregon Historical Society

1954 – Operation Wetback

- Mexican farm workers are targeted for deportation.
- Over 3.8 million people are deported to Mexico.
- In Oregon, there were sweeps through local farms and roads to pick up undocumented workers.



1954-1968 – Civil Rights Movement

- 1954: Brown vs. Board of Education: Supreme Court mandates the desegregation of public schools because separate is unequal.
- 1955: Rosa Parks begins Montgomery Bus Boycott
- 1963: March on Washington for Jobs & Freedom
- 1964: Civil Rights Act
- 1965: Voting Rights Act
- 1968: Martin Luther King is assassinated.

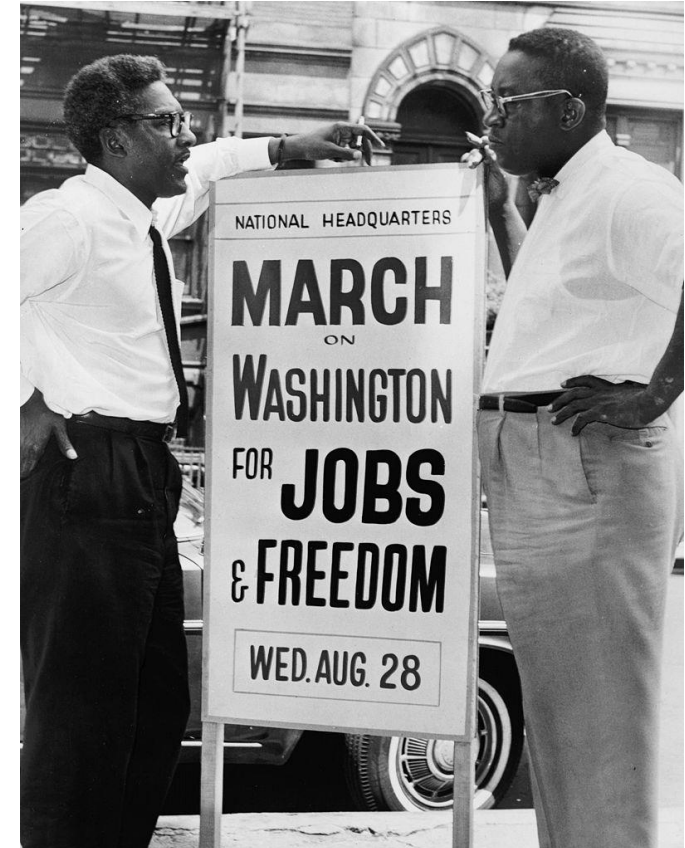


Image Source: Wikipedia

1950-1960s – Redlining & White Flight

- Redlining and mortgage discrimination prevents land and property ownership for people of color.
- Middle-class white families migrate out of cities with racially mixed urban regions to white suburbs.
- The National Realtors Code made it so Oregon realtors would “never introduce into a neighborhood members of any race or nationality whose presence will be detrimental to property values.”

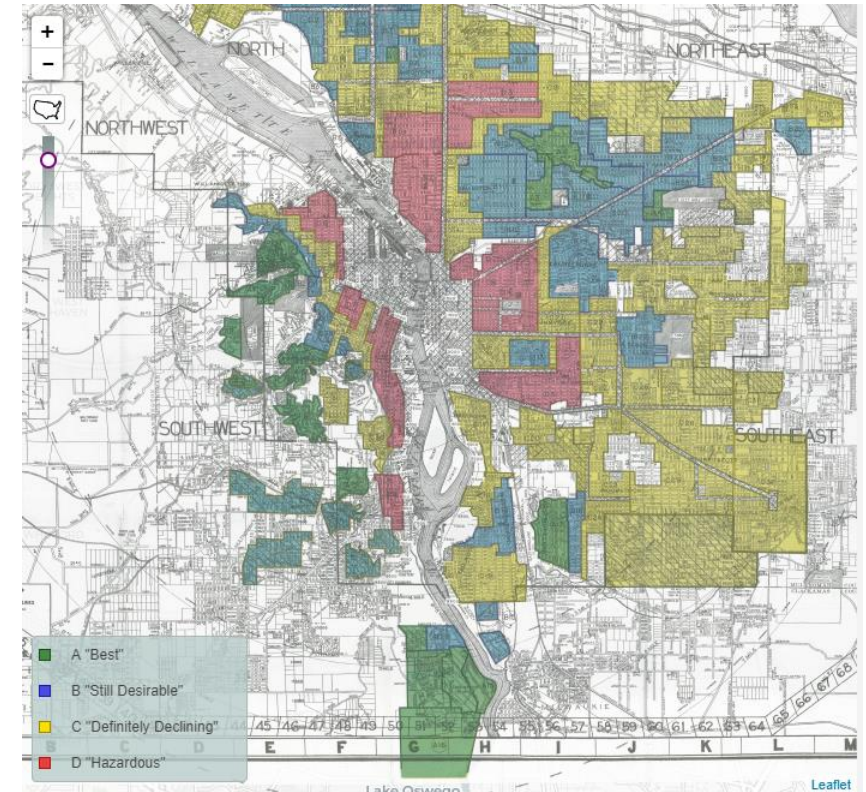


Image Source: Mapping Inequality

1960s – Green Revolution

- Cheap fuel, improved transportation, developments in mechanization and scientific progress set the stage for efficiency in agriculture.
- Follows a shift in synthetic nitrogen production for bombs during WWII to farm production.
- Fertilizers, irrigation developments, pesticides, herbicides & hybrid seeds lead to increase in global agriculture production.
- Focus on a few high-yielding crops and single crop farms.
- Norman Borlaug, the “father” of the Green Revolution received a Nobel Peace Prize for his work in 1970.



Image Source: Union of Concerned Citizens

1962 – Walmart

- 25% spent on groceries goes to Walmart.
- There are more than 11,000 stores in 27 countries (43 in Oregon).
- Walmart is the largest employer behind the federal government.



Image Source: MSNBC

1964 – Food Stamp Act

- “A realistic and responsible step toward the fuller and wiser use of an agricultural abundance.”
-President Lyndon Johnson
- Program began operation nationwide in 1974. Participation was at 14 million.
- In 1966, the Food Stamp Program moves to the Farm Bill.
- As of 2002, Immigrants only qualify if they have lived in the country for 5 years; or are receiving disability related assistance; or have children under 18.

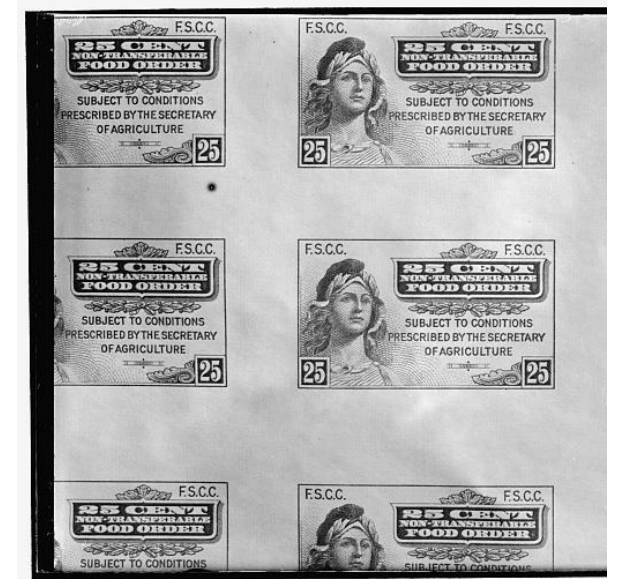


Image Source: Wikipedia

1965 – United Farm Workers of America

- Dolores Huerta & Cesar Chavez join Filipino farm workers (Agricultural Workers Organizing Committee led by Larry Itliong) to form United Farm Workers.
- Worker-led movement brought national attention to farm workers rights.
- Lays groundwork for farm worker unions.



1969 – Black Panther Party School Breakfast

- The Black Panther Party starts a free breakfast program in Oakland, CA.
- By the end of 1969, the Black Panthers were serving free breakfasts to 20,000 school aged children in 19 cities around the country.
- Raised awareness around hunger and poverty in America.
- One of many “Survival Programs” around health, sustenance, criminal justice & education.



1980s – Food Banks

- 90% of food banks were established after 1981 though the first began in Arizona in the 1960s.
- Started as a way to store discarded food for people to pick up.
- During this time, President Reagan scaled back welfare provision leading to a rise of need.
- There are now over 200 food banks supporting 90,000 projects.
- Oregon Food Bank opens in 1988.



1983 – Migrant & Seasonal Agriculture Worker Protection Act

- Farm Worker protections for transportation, housing, pay & work related protections.
- Goal to “remove restraints on commerce caused by activities detrimental to migrant and seasonal agricultural workers; to require farm labor contractors to register under this chapter, and to assure necessary protections for migrant and seasonal agricultural workers, agricultural associations, and agricultural employers.”

1990 – Organic Foods Production Act

- Federal standard for organic food and fiber production.
- Farms are certified to ensure operations meet standards.
- Modeled after California Certified Organic Farmers in 1973 when 54 grower members developed standards for organic production.
- To be Organic, a farm must be compliant with Organic methods, document their practices, have a annual production plan, host an on-farm inspection, pay an annual fee (between \$400-\$2,000/year), keep day to day records.



1993 – La Via Campesina

- An international movement to bring together peasants, small and medium size farmers, landless people, rural women and youth, indigenous peoples, migrants and agricultural workers.
- Coalition of 182 organizations in 81 countries representing 200 million farmers, advocating family-farm based agriculture as a way to promote social justice and dignity.
- Launched the idea of food sovereignty, “the right of peoples to healthy & culturally appropriate food produced through sustainable models and their right to define their own food and agriculture systems.”



1993 – Coalition of Immokalee Workers

- A worker-based human rights organization focused on social responsibility, human trafficking, modern-day slavery, and gender-based violence at work.
- They have freed over 1,200 Florida farmworkers from forced labor.
- In 2001 they won wage increases for Florida tomato pickers.
- They led a boycott of Taco Bell calling on them to take responsibility for human rights abuses in the fields where their produce is grown. In March 2005, Taco Bell agreed to meet CIW demands.
- Now McDonalds, Burger King, Whole Foods, Subway, Bon Appetit, Compass Group, Aramark, Sodexo, Trader Joes & Chipotle are working with CIW on Fair Food Agreements through their Fair Food Program.



Image Source: Coalition of Immokalee Workers

1994 - NAFTA

- The North American Free Trade Agreement removed all tariffs and trade restrictions between Canada, Mexico & the US.
- It opened imports to cheap American food (especially corn) into Mexico's market making it difficult for Mexican farmers to compete.
- Two million Mexican farmers lost their land and livelihoods.



1994 – GMOs: Genetically Modified Organisms

- “Defined as organisms in which the genetic material (DNA) has been altered in some way that does not occur naturally...”
 - World Health Organization.
- First GMO food approved for release was Calgene’s “Flvr Svr” tomato. Clagene was later bought by Monsanto.
- In 2015, 92% of corn & 94% of soybean produced in the US were genetically modified strains.
- Controversy around safety, environment, regulation & seed ownership.



1996 & 1998 – Freedom to Farm Act

- Government stops supporting farms and grain management
- Bill requires farmers to enroll in heavily-subsidized crop insurance programs to be eligible for farm program payments.
- But, in 1998 commodity prices started to fall and the government started “direct payments.” Regardless of market conditions, the government writes grain farmers support check based on the farmers’ historical yields and acreage.

1999 – Pigford v. Glickman

- USDA loan discrimination on the basis of race.
- Allegations that “the USDA treated black farmers unfairly when deciding to allocate price support loans, disaster payments, farm ownership loans and operating loans; and that the USDA had failed to process subsequent complaints about racial discrimination.”
- On average it took 3x longer for the USDA to process a black farmer’s application than a white farmers application.
- Resulting in Black farmers lost their land.
- Lawsuit was filed in 1997 by Timothy Pigford and joined by 400 additional African-American plaintiffs.
- Over 22,000 farmers made claims; 13,500 were approved.
- Largest civil rights settlement in history.

2007 – Farm to School

- Information, advocacy, and networking hub for communities working to bring local food sourcing, school gardens and food and agricultural education into schools and early care & education settings.
- As of 2014, all 50 states and approximately 42,000 (42%) schools are participating.
- In 2011, Oregon receives \$200,000 to reimburse school districts for their purchase of Oregon grown foods and for educational programming. In 2017 it increase to \$4.5 million.



2009 – Food Chain Workers Alliance

- Started as a collaboration between multiple labor groups to build power for all workers along the food chain.
- Coalition of worker-based organizations whose members plant, harvest, process, pack, transport, prepare, serve, and sell food, organizing to improve wages and working conditions for all workers along the food chain.
- Now there are 31 members representing about 340,000 food workers in the US & Canada.



2011 – Food Safety Modernization Act

- Preventative food safety rules for farms that grow, harvest, pack, or hold covered produce for human consumption.
- Designed to prevent food borne illness and implemented by the Food & Drug Administration (FDA).
- Annual fees between \$4,477-\$29,545 to be in compliance.
- Exemptions exist for farms who have average sales of less than \$25,000 per year and sell 50% farm direct.



U.S. FOOD & DRUG
ADMINISTRATION

2012 – Fight for \$15

- Began when two hundred fast food workers walked off the job and demanded \$15/hour and union rights in NYC.
- Now it's a global movement in 300 cities on six continents.
- Has won raises for 22 million people including 10 million on their way to \$15/hour because workers came together and acted like a union.
- Senate Bill 1532 increases Oregon's minimum wage in 2016. Portland's minimum wage will rise to \$14.75 by 2022. Suburban and rural communities will rise to \$12.50-13.50.



Image Source: Wikipedia

2014 – Milk with Dignity

- Launched in 2014 creating a Milk with Dignity Code of Conduct.
- In 2017, farmworker leaders from Migrant Justice and the CEO of Ben & Jerry's jointly sign the Milk with Dignity agreement.
- The legally-binding contract establishes Ben & Jerry's as the first company in the dairy industry to implement the worker-driven human rights program.
- Impacts will include improvements in wages, scheduling, housing and health & safety protections & farm owners will receive a premium on their milk.



Image Source: Migrant Justice

2015 – Equitable Food Initiative

- Bringing together workers, growers, and retailers in the effort to create a safer, more equitable food system.
- The EFI standards have been crafted to improve labor practices, environmental stewardship and food safety for the benefit of the workers, agricultural communities businesses and consumers.
- Values of equitable participation, collaboration, respect, innovation & integrity.
- Farm workers are involved in the design and implementation of protocols.



2016 – Standing Rock

- Land where the Dakota Access Pipeline is being built was promised to the Sioux Nation in the 1850s & 1860s but the government forced them to surrender their land after discovering gold and ensuing battles.
- DAPL poses a threat to drinking water and ancient burial grounds.
- Thousands of protesters and spiritual resisters gathered in North Dakota to block the pipeline.
- “Reshaping the national conversation for any environmental project that would cross Native American land.”



Image Source: Wikipedia

Farm Workers Today

Data calculated between 2011-2012 by Farm Worker Justice

- There is an estimated 2.5 million farmworkers in the US.
- 71% of farmworkers are immigrants. 95% are from Mexico.
- 90% of agricultural workers in California are immigrants. It's 30% in Oregon.
- Without legal status many have limited rights and may suffer from exploitation.
- One-third of all farmworkers were employed by farm labor contractors.
- The average total individual income of farmworkers is \$15,000-\$17,499.



Image Source: Coalition of Immokalee Workers

Farm Owners Today

According to 2012 Census of Ag data

- 96% of farm owners are white. In Oregon, 98.6% of farms owners are white.
- 13.5% of farms are owned by women.
- 3% of farms are owned by Spanish, Hispanic or Latino operators
- 2.6% of farms are owned by American Indian or Alaska Native operators
- 1.7% of farms are owned by Black operators
- Less than 1% of farms are owned by Asian, Native Hawaiian or Pacific Island operators

Racial Wage Gap in Food Sector

Report & images released in 2011 by Applied Research Center

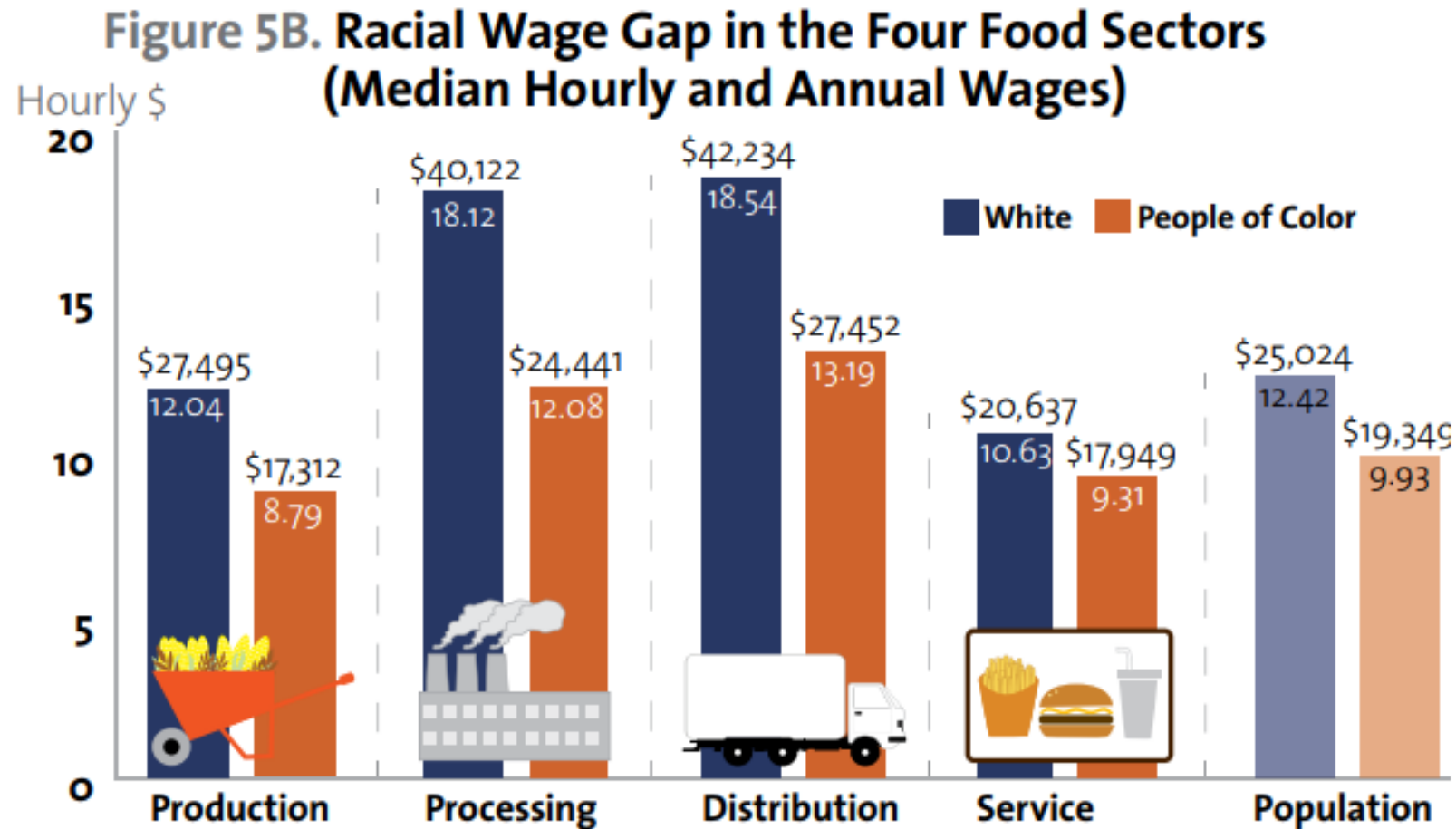


Figure 6. Race and Gender in the Food Chain

Race & Gender	Ratio of Median Annual Wages
White Men \$1.00	
Asian Men \$0.83	
Black Men \$0.71	
Asian Women \$0.68	
Latino Men \$0.66	
White Women \$0.63	
Black Women \$0.53	
Latina Women \$0.50	