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Food, Farms, and Community

Exploring Food Systems
Lisa Chase, Vern Grubinger

New Hampshire

2014 • 296 pp • 75 figs • 8 tables • 2 maps 6 x 9 1/4"
Agriculture & Food Production / Sustainable
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"Chase and Grubinger bring valuable clarity and insight to the inherent complexity of contemporary food systems. Anyone who wants to truly understand how these systems work—or don't work—should read this book."—Ben Hewitt, author of *The Town That Food Saved*

How food systems reflect our values and contribute to our economy, environment, and culture

Throughout the United States, people are increasingly concerned about where their food comes from, how it is produced, and how its production affects individuals and their communities. The answers to these questions reveal a complex web of interactions. While large, distant farms and multinational companies dominate at national and global levels, innovative programs including farmers' markets, farm-to-school initiatives, and agritourism are forging stronger connections between people and food at local and regional levels. At all levels of the food system, energy use, climate change, food safety, and the maintenance of farmland for the future are critical considerations. The need to understand food systems—what they are, who's involved, and how they work (or don't)—has never been greater.

Food, Farms, and Community: Exploring Food Systems takes an in-depth look at critical issues, successful programs, and challenges for improving food systems spanning a few miles to a few thousand miles. Case studies that delve into the values that drive farmers, food advocates, and food entrepreneurs are interwoven with analysis supported by the latest research. Examples of entrepreneurial farms and organizations working together to build sustainable food systems are relevant to the entire country—and reveal results that are about much more than fresh food.

[Click here for TABLE OF CONTENTS](#)

Reviews / Endorsements

"Chase and Grubinger bring valuable clarity and insight to the inherent complexity of contemporary food systems. Anyone who wants to truly understand how these systems work—or don't work—should read this book."—Ben Hewitt, author of *The Town That Food Saved*

"If you haven't a clue about what's meant by food systems, read *Food, Farms, and Community* right now. The book covers the territory from farm to fork, clarifying the complexities and focusing on what's really important: what to do to create food and farming systems that promote the health of people and the planet."—Marion Nestle, author of *What to Eat*

"Chase and Grubinger explore the complexities of the food system from the viewpoint of different key players while also offering solutions, and thereby make a remarkable contribution to this growing field."—Selena Ahmed, Montana State University

"[Chase and Grubinger's] backgrounds inform their broad approach to the complex topic of food systems, producing an introductory textbook unique in its breadth of scope and emphasis on North American food systems. Throughout the book, the authors define terms and concepts. They clearly convey a great deal of information about this complicated subject through thoughtful organization and a straightforward writing style."—*Choice*

"This is an important contribution to the literature on food systems because it pulls together a range of relevant material while also providing some of the specific dynamics and statistics that reveal the relationships between parts of the system."—Tatiana Schreiber, Keene State University

LISA CHASE is the natural resources specialist at University of Vermont Extension and the director of the Vermont Tourism Research Center. VERN GRUBINGER is an agriculture specialist with University of Vermont Extension and coordinator of the USDA's Northeast Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education Program.

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