

Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon's Interfaith Network  
for Earth Concerns

## Community Food Security Project

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### USEFUL VIDEOS

#### GLOBALIZATION AND FOOD

*The Global Banquet: The Politics of Food.* Maryknoll Productions. 60 minutes. 2001.

“Part 1 “Who's Invited?” examines how corporations control the world's food system through free trade policies, threatening the livelihoods of small farmers and causing mounting hunger world-wide, despite the over-abundance of food. Part 2 “What's on the Menu?” Shows the effects of low-cost food imports to developing countries. Tells about cash crop exports that deplete natural resource and render developing countries unable to feed themselves. Questions the development and use of genetically modified crops. Shows how farmers, laborers, environmentalists, animal rights activists, church groups and students work to rewrite unjust free trade policies. Grade 11 to adult. (Source: Mennonite Central Committee)

**Study Guide:** Yes. This video is divided into two half-hour segments—good for discussion groups.

For “on loan” use, call Mennonite Central Committee, [www.mcc.org](http://www.mcc.org); (toll free) 1-888-563-4676.

Order on-line: [http://www.olddogdocumentaries.com/vid\\_gb.html](http://www.olddogdocumentaries.com/vid_gb.html); Video \$19.95, DVD \$34.95 (plus S&H).

*Strong Roots, Fragile Farms.* The Justice and Witness Ministries of the United Church of Christ and the National Council of Churches. 57 minutes. 2002.

This film is a made for television documentary designed to encourage and broaden local discussion in faith-based communities, union halls, cooperatives, and community centers—wherever people think globally and act locally. Through personal stories—profiling farm families in Iowa and North Carolina, the Philippines, Mexico and Africa—we will follow families as they plant crops, cultivate and harvest. They will tell their own stories and show us how globalization affects their lives everyday. The approach of this film may increase public awareness about the peril of the family farm and explain the reasons globalization is a concern for us all. (Source: United Church of Christ)

**Study Guide:** Yes

**For more information and to order:** United Church Services, \$19.95 (plus S&H). 1-800-537-3394.

On-line: <http://www.ucc.org/fragilefarms/faq.htm>

#### CONSUMER ISSUES

*Deconstructing Supper: Is Your Food Safe?* MSK Productions, Inc., 48 minutes. 2002.

“Renowned chef John Bishop leads viewers on an eye-opening and engaging journey into the billion-dollar battle to control global food production. Starting with a gourmet meal in his five-star restaurant, Bishop travels the world—from farmer's fields to biotech laboratories to supermarket aisles—on a personal quest to find out what our food choices are. With a hearty appetite for food and information, chef Bishop explores the politics and ethics of food. He discovers that 70% of processed foods on supermarket shelves in North America contain genetically modified ingredients. The handful of biotech companies who control genetically modified seeds claim this is the only way to feed the world's growing population. But are these foods safe? Are there other, less risky ways to feed ourselves? Our chef finds answers to these compelling questions and more.” Grade 7 to adult. (Source: Bullfrog Films)

**Study Guide:** No

**For more information and to order:**

Contact Bullfrog Films at 1-800-543-FROG (3764); Preview/Rent \$85; Purchase \$250.

On-line: <http://www.bullfrogfilms.com/catalog/decon.html>

*The Meatrix*, Free Range Graphics. <http://www.meatrix.org>. 6 minutes.

A short, online animated film contrasting small, free-range livestock raising and giant corporate-industrial livestock farms “The Meatrix” was created by Free Range Graphics for organizations working to end the unsustainable and inhumane practices of factory farming. These organizations advocate several actions that consumers can take on this issue. Plays off of the popular film “The Matrix.”

**Study Guide:** No

**For more information, and to view:** <http://www.meatrix.org>

## H U N G E R

*Wake Up Dorothy, A Hunger Education Resource*, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. 30 minutes. 1992.

A video drama communicates a message about Christian environmental stewardship. The drama takes place in an urban environment and is told in rap-like narration by inner-city youth. The purpose of this video is the following: 1) To convey symbolically the effects of human carelessness on the natural environment; 2) To contrast the attitudes of arrogance, ignorance and greed with responsible Christian stewardship; 3) To show that our natural environment is a gift from God, and that our faithful response to that gift is one of tending the garden as good stewards. Grade 8 to 12. (Source: Archdiocese of Portland)

**Study Guide:** No

**For more information:** Archdiocese of Portland Media Catalog 2004 item # V639001, #503-233.8384. On-line: <http://www.archdpx.org/mdcat/main/strtpage.htm>

*Where are the Beans?* Mennonite Central Committee. 13 minutes. 1995.

After eating several meals without the traditional beans, Kathy, an MCC worker returning to Honduras, sets out to discover "Where Are the Beans?" Relates how Honduran farmers work hard and collect a plentiful harvest of beans and yet do not have enough beans to eat themselves. Explains how economic policies and other factors deprive Honduran farmers of their bean harvest. Illustrates how North Americans as well as people in Central America are affected by international economic policies. Grade 5 to adult. (Source: Mennonite Central Committee)

**Study Guide:** Yes

**For more information:** For "on loan" use, call Mennonite Central Committee, 1-888-563-4676; on-line: <http://www.mcc.org>. \$15.

## F A R M I N G

*An Agriculture That Makes Sense*. Land Stewardship Project. 14 minutes. 1994.

This 11-minute video shows how Land Stewardship Project helps people choose a sustainable future for farming and rural communities. (Source: Land Stewardship Project)

**Study Guide:** No

**For more information and to order:** Loan from INEC: 503-221-1054, ext. 278. To purchase, contact Land Stewardship Project: 1-612-653-0618, or on-line <http://www.landstewardshipproject.org>. \$15.

*The Greening of Cuba*. Jamie Kibben for *Food First*. 38 minutes. 1996.

"Witness an entire nation transforming its agriculture to organic techniques. Profiles Cuban farmers and scientists working to reinvent a sustainable agriculture, based on ecological principles and local knowledge rather than imported machinery and agrochemicals. When trade relations with the socialist bloc collapsed in 1990, Cuba lost 80 percent of its pesticide and fertilizer imports and half its petroleum. Challenged with growing food for 11 million people in the face of the continuing U.S. embargo, Cuba embarked on the largest conversion to organic farming ever attempted. This video is a reminder that nations can choose a healthier environment and still feed their people." Grade 9 to adult. Spanish with English subtitles. (Source: Mennonite Central Committee web site)

**Study Guide:** No

**For more information and to order:** For "on loan" use, call Mennonite Central Committee, [www.mcc.org](http://www.mcc.org); call 1-888-563-4676; to purchase, email [cdrake@foodfirst.org](mailto:cdrake@foodfirst.org); \$11.95 (plus S&H).

*My Father's Garden*. Miranda Productions. 56 minutes. 1995.

"An emotionally charged documentary about the use and misuse of technology on the American farm. In less than fifty years the face of agriculture has been utterly transformed by synthetic chemicals, which have had a serious impact on the environment and on the health of farm families. This film tells the story of two [distinct] farmers...united by their common goal of producing healthy food. Faced with a shattered economy and the devastating environmental effects of conventional chemical farming, one farmer, Fred steered his land through the transition to organic farming. Twenty years later, the Kirschenmann farm is a thriving testament to ingenuity, hard work, and a reverent understanding of nature. Fred proves that sustainable agriculture is a viable alternative on any sized farm and that we can bring health and beauty back to the Garden." (Source: Bullfrog Films)

**Study Guide:** Yes

**For more information and to order:** On-line: <http://www.bullfrogfilms.com> to rent \$80; purchase \$250.

## L A N D U S E A N D F A R M L A N D P R O T E C T I O N

*From This Valley*. KET Productions. 60 minutes. August 1997

Amid the breathtaking beauty of the 1,000-foot gorge known as the Breaks of the Sandy, Kentucky author Gurney Norman begins a journey along the Big Sandy River to explore the history and culture of its people. While hiking the woody trails and canoeing the quiet creek water, Norman reflects on the rich heritage of the region, which has produced an abundance

of writers, historians, musicians, and artists. The program recounts both notable events from the region's history, including the explorations of frontiersman Daniel Boone and the tragic Hatfield-McCoy feud, and its modern-day traditions and success stories. (Source: KET Productions)

**Study Guide:** No

**For more information and to order:** KET Tape Duplication, call 1-800-945-9167, or email: [tapes@ket.org](mailto:tapes@ket.org).

*From This Valley...On Defending the Family Farm.* Mission Board. 1986.

An ecumenical resource for rural and urban congregations and individuals at home for exploring the Farm Crisis. A history of farming in the USA is presented in order to call attention to the agreement among the churches that "the family farm should be supported and maintained, in so far as possible." Please note the publication date. Grade 9 to adult.

**Study Guide:** Yes (Leader's Guide also available)

**For more information and to order:** On-loan use, contact Presbytery of the Cascades, video #VT MHX 004, Portland 503-445-4999, or 1-866-200-5660.

*Grasslands.* CBC's "The Nature of Things". 45 minutes. 1998.

"What kind of ecosystem evolves to survive fire, brutal winter temperatures and decades of drought? For thousands of years the grasslands of North America thrived under such conditions, existing in an intimate relationship with the earth. In GRASSLANDS, archival film footage shows how farmers paid the price for displacing the perfectly adapted ecosystem with mono-cultured, imported crops. Under a persistent drought in the 1930s, millions of tons of topsoil blew away in the prairie wind, resulting in the devastating dust bowl.

GRASSLANDS examines the plants and animals which live in complex interdependency on the remaining tracts of native grasslands, and shows how lessons learned can provide valuable knowledge for modern, sustainable agriculture." Closed Captioned. Grade 7 to adult. (Source: Bullfrog Films)

**Study Guide:** No

**For more information and to order:** Call 1-800-543-FROG to rent \$75, or purchase \$250. On-line: <http://www.bullfrogfilms.com>

*Subdivide and Conquer.* Jeff Gersh and Chelsea Congdon. 56 minutes & 27 minutes. 1999.

"Narrated by Dennis Weaver, *Subdivide and Conquer* explores the consequences of sprawl, the history of this automobile-centered pattern of development, and notions about the endless frontier and rugged individualism. The film also suggests remedies, and takes us to places where sound public policy and good land use planning have stemmed the tide of sprawl. We learn that, when given a choice, many Americans want to live in distinct, well-designed neighborhoods, with all the amenities and attractions that they provide, and they want driving to be one among numerous transit options rather than a lifestyle requirement. The film takes us through the West—to Montana, Colorado, New Mexico, Arizona, Utah and Oregon—to tell the story of what is in fact a national issue making front-page news in every region of the country."

(Source: Bullfrog Films)

**Study Guide:** Yes

**For more information and to order:** Call 1-800-543-FROG to rent \$75, or purchase \$250. On-line: <http://www.bullfrogfilms.com>

*Valley at the Crossroads.* John Doxey and George Spies. 27 minutes. 2002.

The first film to grapple with the questions of the growing threat of urbanization to the earth's most productive farming region in California's Central Valley that produces about half of America's fruits, nuts and vegetables. But in many valley towns, homebuilding, not agriculture, now drives the economy.

Two vast forces are beginning to collide, and battles have broken out in the Valley over growth. *Valley at the Crossroads* visits the frontlines of this struggle and explores the central issues involved. Included are the voices of farmers, activists, office holders, developers and others as they debate the issues and work to find a solution." Grade 7 to adult. (Source: Bullfrog Films)

**Study Guide:** Yes

**For more information and to order:** Call 800-543-FROG to rent \$75, or purchase \$250, <http://www.bullfrogfilms.com>

## COMMUNITY FOOD SECURITY

*American Community Gardening Association Video,*

"We have a video, available for purchase for the very reasonable price of \$15, that tells the ACGA and community gardening story. It is very handy when you are making a presentation to people interested in starting a community garden but who don't know very much about the topic or when you have to convince your local government officials that there really are people all over the country doing this, too." (Source: American Community Gardening Association web site)

**Study Guide:** No

**For more information and to order:** On-line: <http://www.communitygarden.org/pubs/#video>, \$16.

*Beyond Organic: The Vision of Fairview Gardens.* John de Graaf. 33 minutes. 2000.

This film tells the story of an amazing urban farm located right in the middle of some of the most expensive real estate in the U.S. Managed for two decades by visionary farmer/photographer/author, Michael Ableman. This 12-acre organic farm has become a model of sustainable food production and community involvement, as well as an inspiration for thousands of people for its long battle to survive in the face of raped suburban development. It draws a sharp contrast between community supported agriculture and conventional chemical farming, and it calls on organic farmers to remember basic principles, including fair labor practices, as their farms grow in size and power." Grade 7 to adult. (Source: Bullfrog Films)

**Study Guide:** Yes

**For more information and to order:** Call 1-800-543-FROG to rent \$45, or purchase \$195. On-line: <http://www.bullfrogfilms.com>

*Oglala Otakuye.* Gemma Productions. 26 minutes. 1997.

A beautiful look at the Lakota people in South Dakota, at the program in which Lakota young people learn to garden, and the ceremony of the morning star society - an introduction into womanhood. Grade 9 to adult. (Source: Mennonite Central Committee web site)

**Study Guide:** No

**For more information and to order:**

For "on loan" use, call Mennonite Central Committee, [www.mcc.org](http://www.mcc.org); 1-888-563-4676.

*Our Food, Our Future,* Frances McElroy, Shirley Road Productions

Communities across America are developing new ways of addressing food, farm and nutrition challenges. In cities, towns and rural communities across the country, faith-based organizations, academic institutions and non-profit groups are working together to reduce hunger, improve nutrition, strengthen local food systems, support local community economic development and help families move from poverty to self-sufficiency.

**Study Guide:** No

**For more information and to order:** Contact Cornell University Resource Center #607-255-2090, or e-mail. [resctr@cornell.edu](mailto:resctr@cornell.edu). \$23.95 (includes S&H).

## **SPIRITUALITY & FOOD**

*Babette's Feast,* Orion Pictures Corporation. 102 minutes. 1987.

Now from the celebrated storyteller Isak Dinesen (Out of Africa) comes this delicious tale of Babette, a superb French chef living an anonymous life among a pious congregation on the desolate coast of Denmark. As housekeeper and cook to two elderly, religious women, she's never called upon to prepare anything more exciting than the traditional boiled codfish and ale-bread soup. Until one day she wins 10,000 francs and decides to spend it all by creating the most memorable, mouth-watering, magnificent meal ever consumed--even though her guests, the simple villagers, will have no idea what they're eating. Recommended by the Vatican as one of the top 45 films ever made. (Source: Archdiocese of Portland Media Catalog 2004)

**For more information:** On-loan use, contact Archdiocese of Portland Media Catalog 2004, video #V495001, #503-233-8384, or 2000 Media Resource Catalog by United Methodist Church, Portland, video #VED200474, #503-226-4158 x24.

*The Gleaners and I.* Directed and produced by Agnes Varda. 82 minutes. 2001.

Varda trains her ever-seeking eye on "gleaners", those who pick at already-harvested fields for the odd potato or turnip, who insist on finding a use for what society has determined it has no use for. Her investigation leads us from forgotten corners of the French countryside to off-hours at the green markets in Paris where her diverse and resourceful subjects share their life styles and choices. Varda's own ruminations on her life as a filmmaker (a gleaner of sorts), gives her a connection to her subjects that creates a touching human portrait that the L.A. Weekly called "a protest film that's part social critique, part travelogue, but always an unsentimental celebration of human resilience." In French with English subtitles. (Source: Zeitgeist Films)

**Study guide:** No

**For more information:** <http://www.zeitgeistfilms.com> video stores, and search engines.

*Hendrix Local Food Project.* Melissa Beck Yazman, 6 minutes. 1991.

The story of how Hendrix College developed and implemented a program to source local food for its cafeteria.

**Study Guide:** Yes "How to start a school local food purchasing program".

**For more information and to order:** Available for loan from INEC. Call 503-221-1054, ext. 210