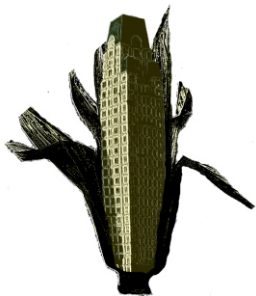


FEEDING NINE BILLION: LOCAL FOOD



LOCAL FOOD
SYSTEMS



[HTTP://WWW.FEEDINGNINEBILLION.COM/](http://www.feedingninebillion.com/)

HELLO, MY NAME IS EVAN FRASER AND I WORK AT
THE UNIVERSITY OF GUELPH IN ONTARIO CANADA.

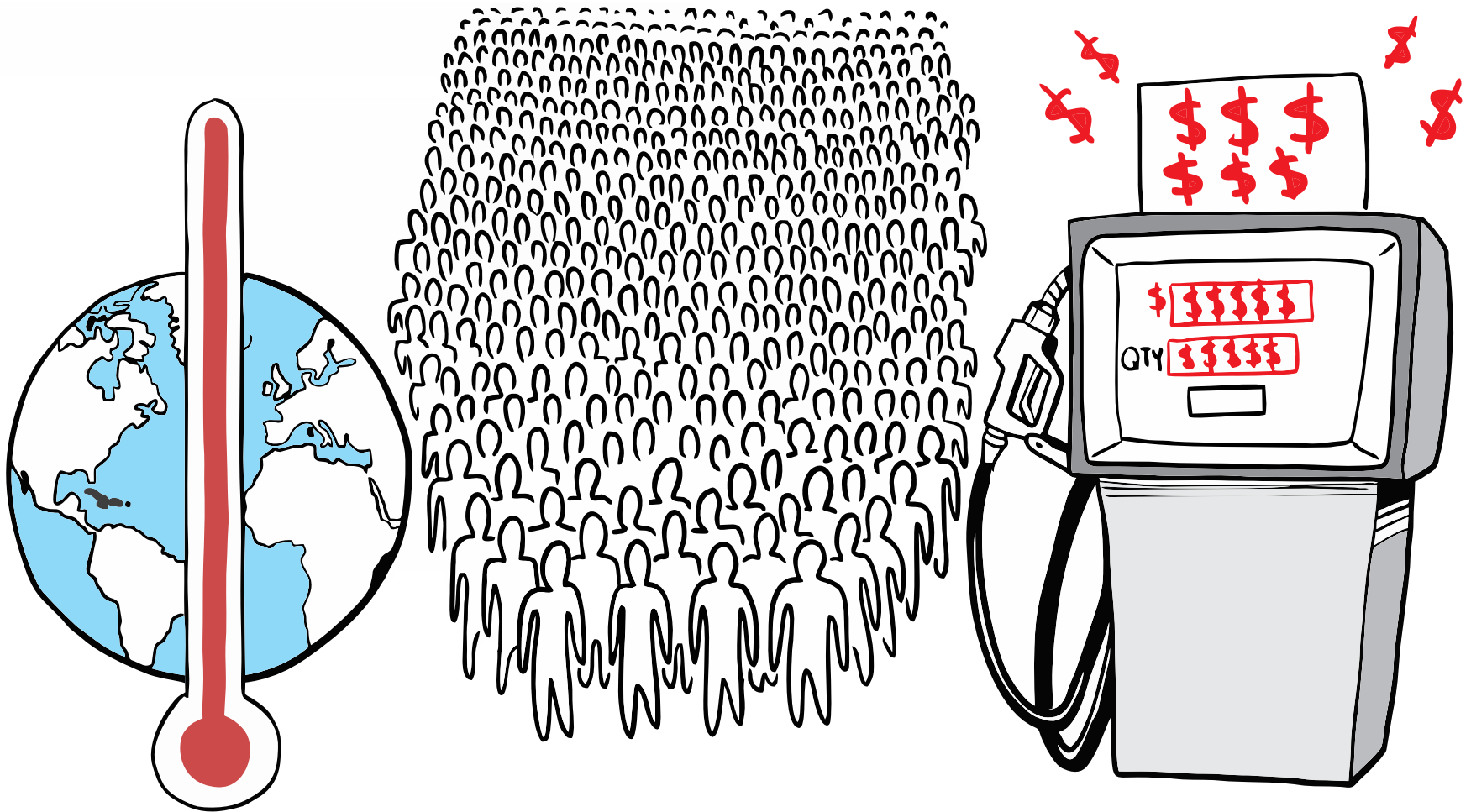


MOSTLY, WHAT I DO IS TO TRY AND UNDERSTAND ONE OF THE BIGGEST ISSUES
FACING OUR WORLD OVER THE NEXT 50 YEARS ... HOW CAN WE FEED 9 BILLION
PEOPLE?

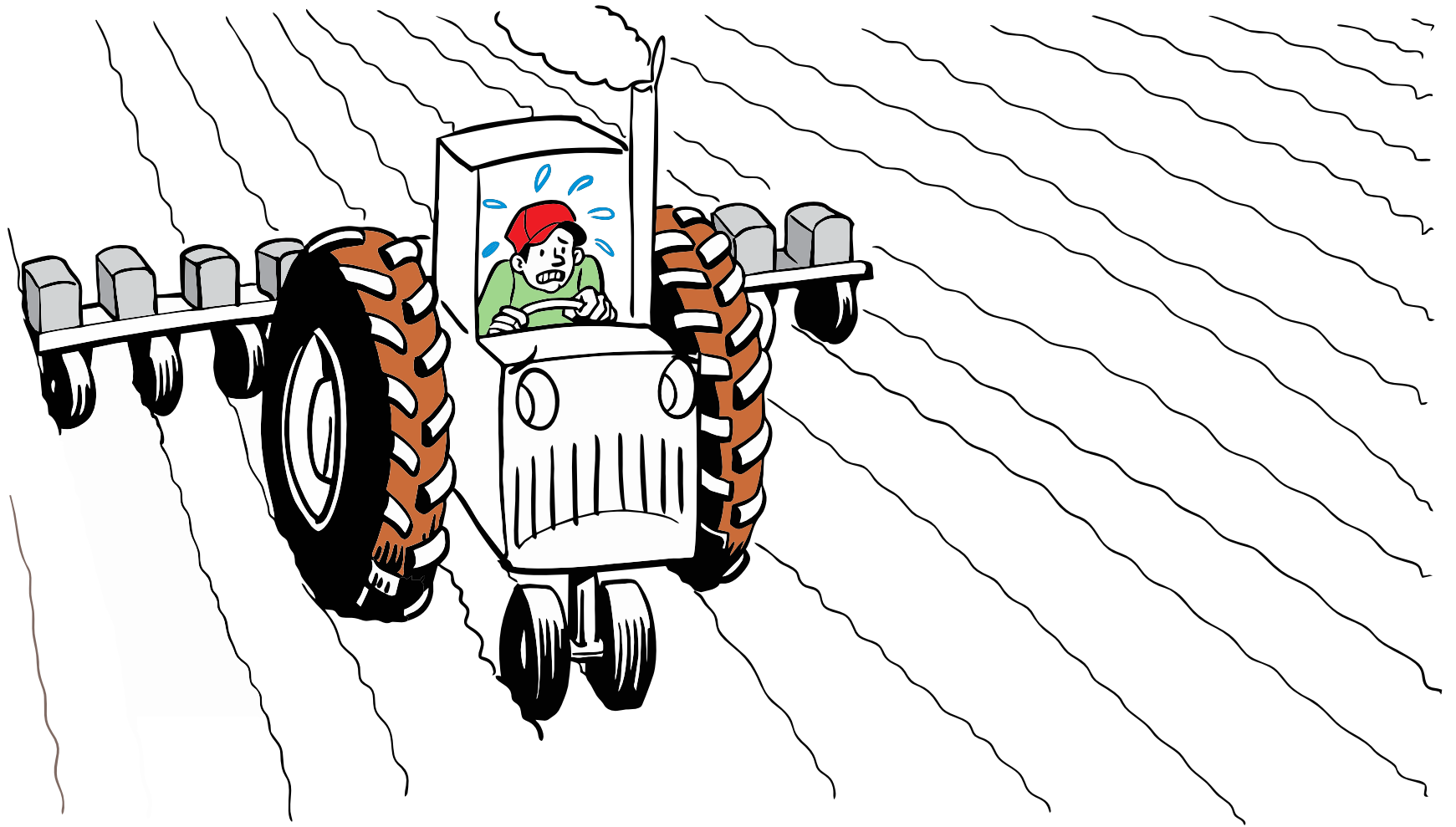
UNIVERSITY
of GUELPH

CHANGING LIVES
IMPROVING LIFE

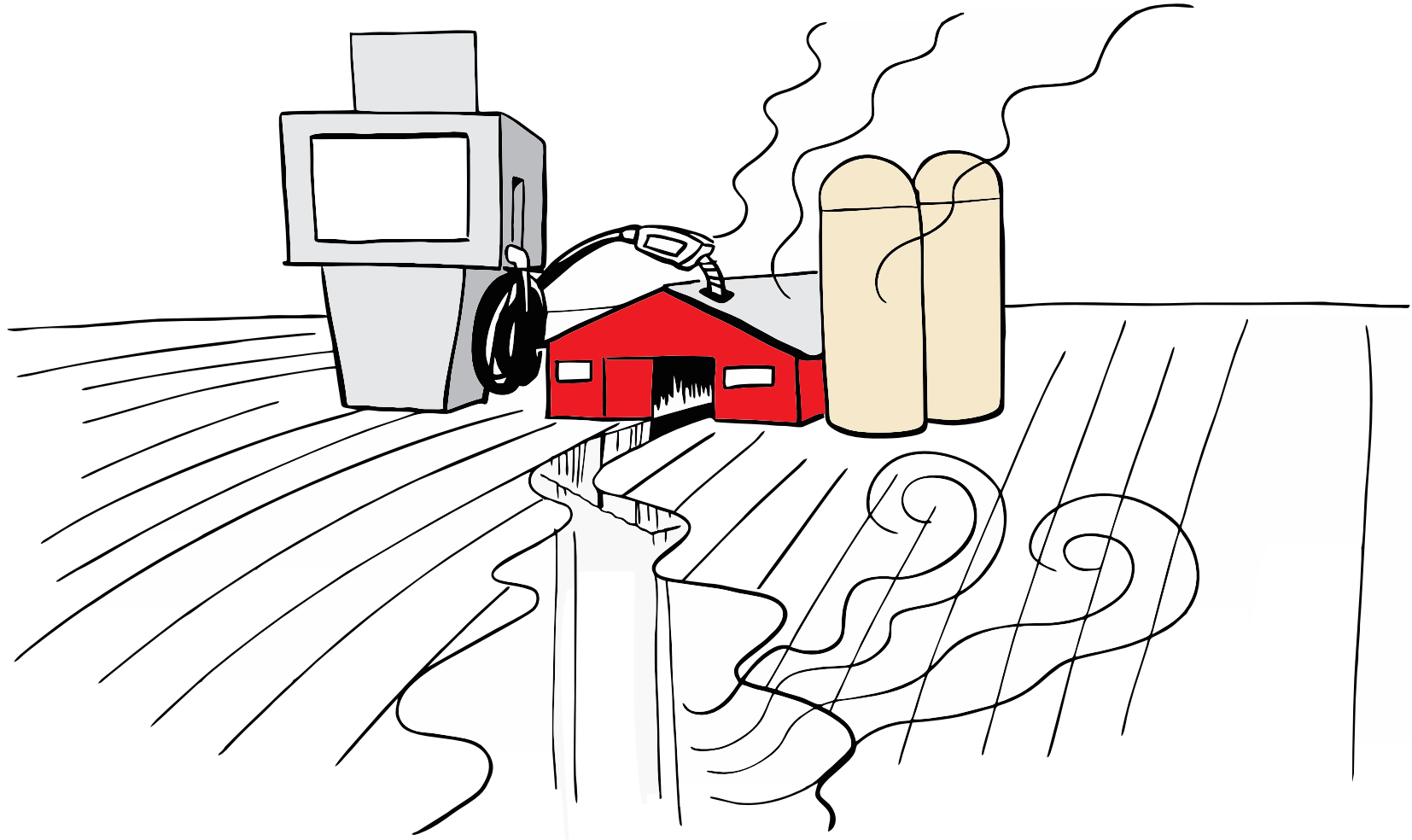
THIS VIDEO SERIES SHOWS THAT CLIMATE CHANGE, POPULATION GROWTH, AND HIGH ENERGY PRICES. . .



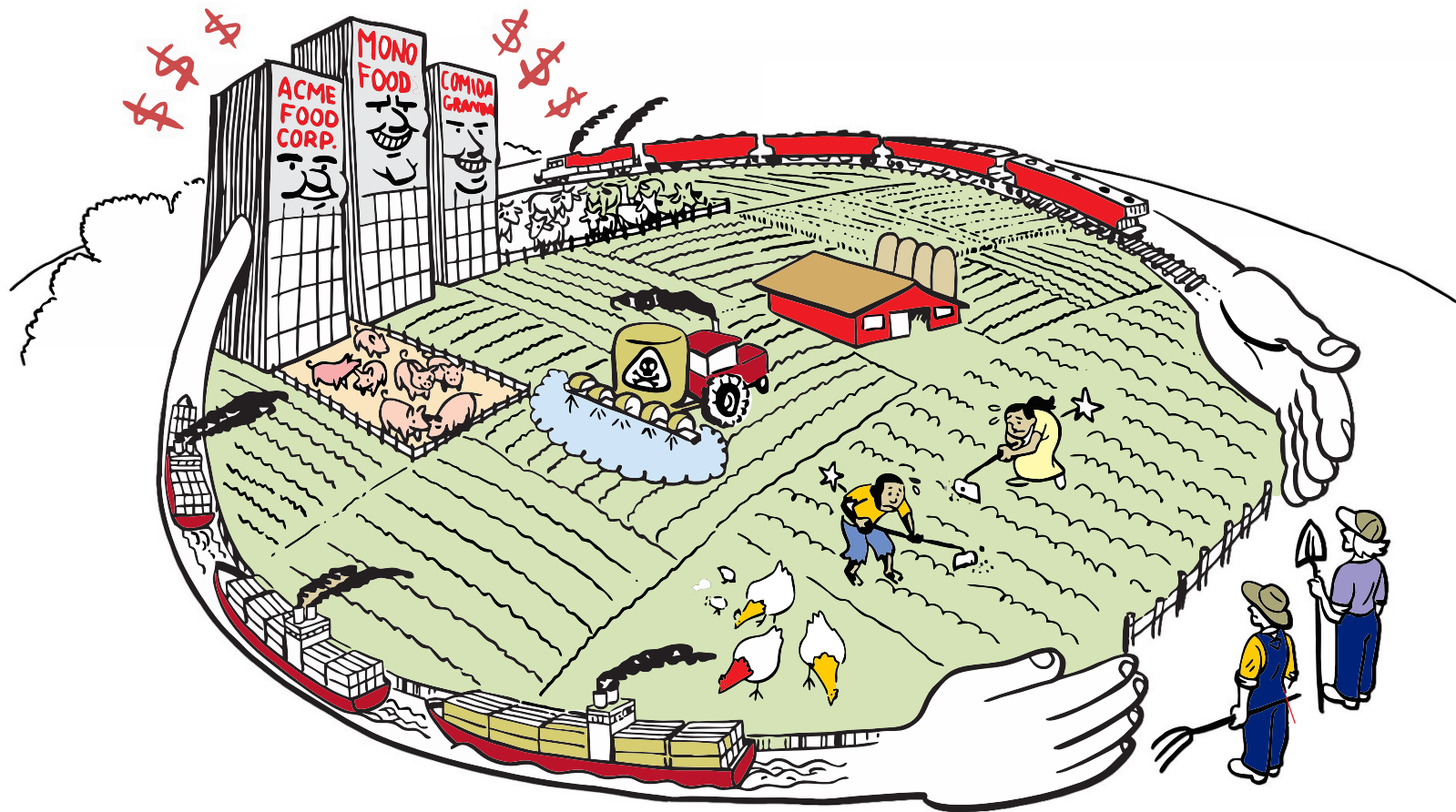
... MEAN THAT FARMERS MAY STRUGGLE TO PRODUCE ENOUGH FOOD FOR ALL OF HUMANITY
OVER THE NEXT GENERATION.



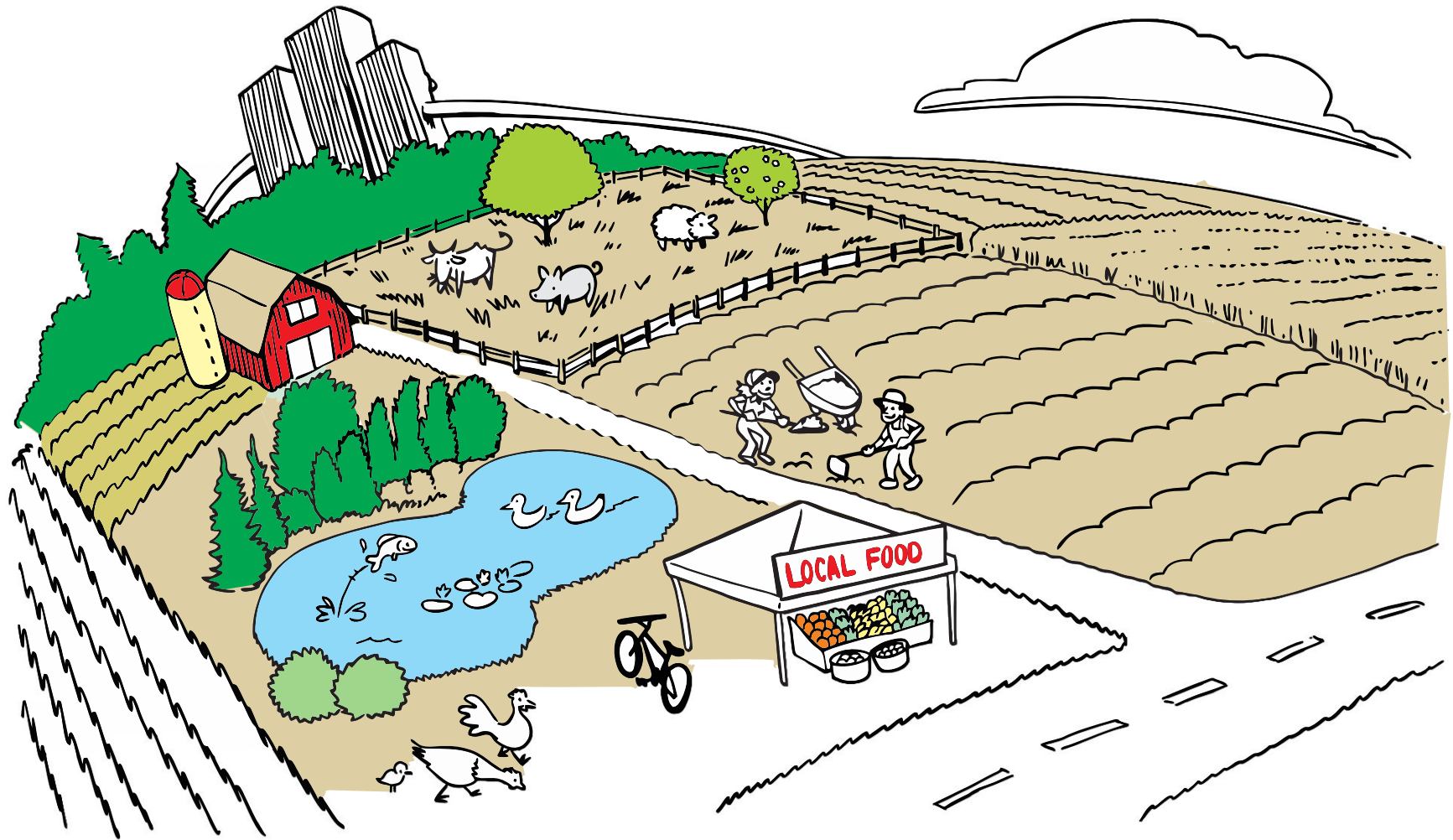
WHAT'S MORE, MANY THINK THAT BECAUSE MODERN FARMS USE A LOT OF ENERGY¹, AND CAUSE A LOT OF POLLUTION, OUR FOOD SYSTEMS ARE HOPELESSLY FLAWED.

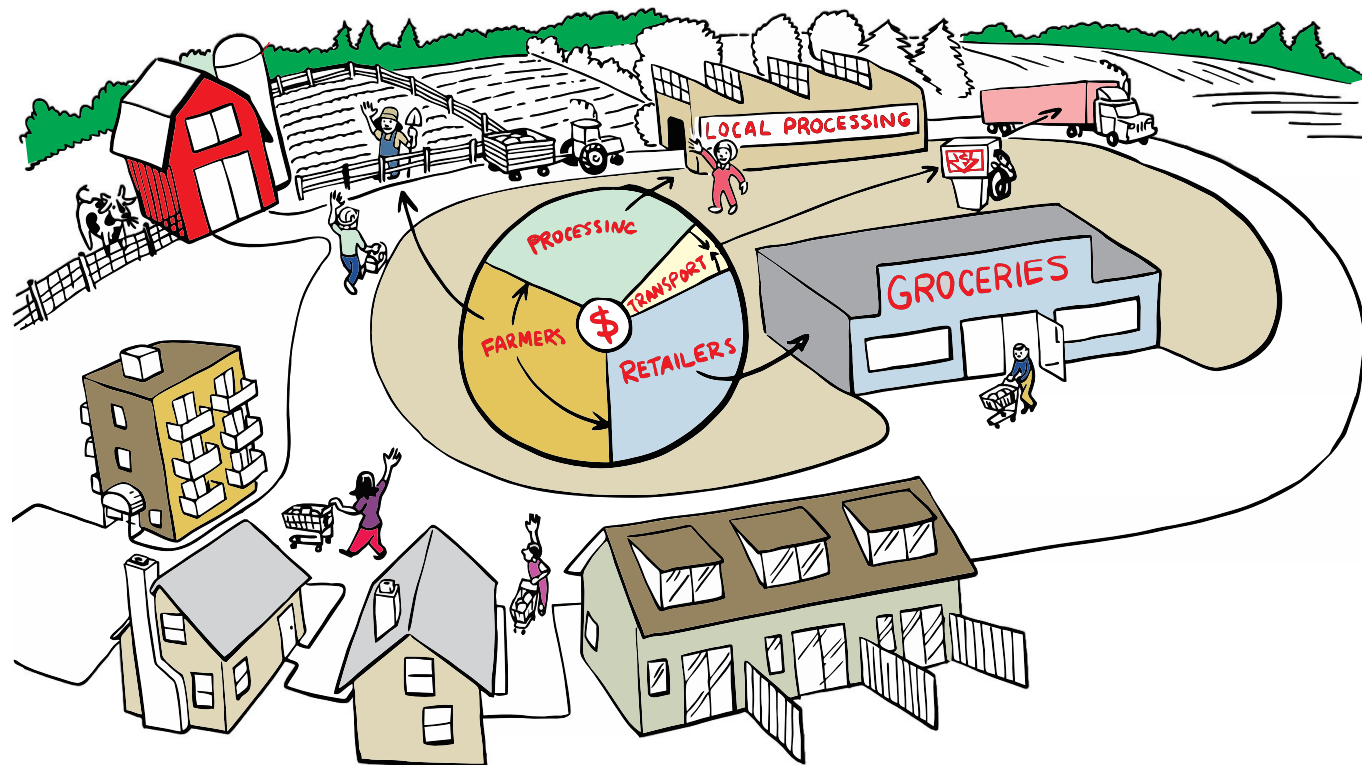


THESE ARGUMENTS GO LIKE THIS: TODAY A HANDFUL OF LARGE CORPORATIONS CONTROL THE VAST MAJORITY OF THE WORLD'S FOOD TRADE². IN DOING SO, THEY MAKE A HUGE AMOUNT OF MONEY BY USING FARMING SYSTEMS THAT DAMAGE THE ENVIRONMENT, EXPLOIT WORKERS, AND DISPLACE TRADITIONAL FARMERS³.



BY CONTRAST, FOOD SYSTEMS BASED ON LOCAL, DIVERSE AND SMALL FARMS THAT USE FEW CHEMICAL INPUTS LIKE PESTICIDES OR FERTILIZERS ARE MORE SUSTAINABLE, EQUITABLE AND DEMOCRATIC.



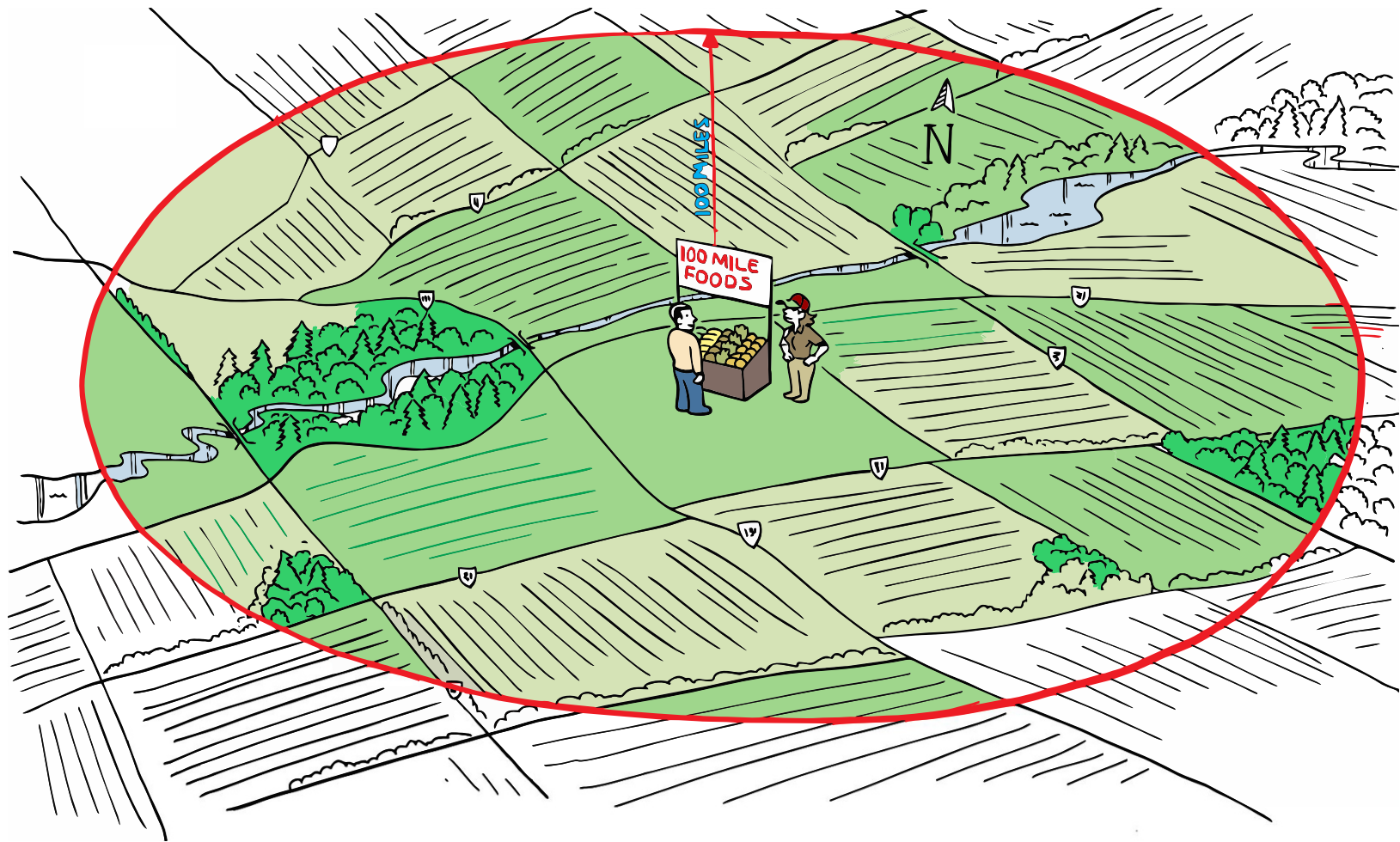


THIS IS BECAUSE WHEN PRODUCERS AND CONSUMERS KNOW EACH OTHER AND INTERACT, THEN THE ENTIRE COMMUNITY HAS A SAY IN HOW FOOD IS PRODUCED⁴. THIS SHOULD MEAN THAT FARMERS RECEIVE A DECENT INCOME SINCE THEY WILL RECEIVE A HIGHER PERCENTAGE OF THE VALUE OF THE FOOD THEY PRODUCE. AND THEY SHOULD ALSO PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT BETTER BECAUSE CONSUMERS WILL BE OK WITH PAYING MORE FOR FOOD THEY KNOW ISN'T COVERED WITH POLLUTING SPRAYS. ALSO, BECAUSE FOOD IS PRODUCED AND CONSUMED IN THE SAME REGION, THE AMOUNT OF FOSSIL FUELS BURNED FOR TRANSPORTATION SHOULD GO DOWN.

GOOD-BYE PROCESSED CHEESE AND VEGETABLES FROM THE SOUTHERN HEMISPHERE, AND
HELLO LOCALLY PRODUCED SEASONAL DISHES.



THOSE OF US IN THE RICH PARTS OF THE WORLD PROBABLY ASSOCIATE THESE IDEAS WITH THE "100-MILE DIET".⁵



IN THE DEVELOPING WORLD, THESE IDEAS ARE OFTEN DESCRIBED AS "FOOD SOVEREIGNTY" AND ARE PROMOTED BY LA VIA CAMPESINA, AN INTERNATIONAL MOVEMENT ADVOCATING THAT CONSUMERS AND SMALL-SCALE PRODUCERS WORK TOGETHER TO TAKE CONTROL OF THEIR FOOD⁶.



MANY, HOWEVER, QUESTION WHETHER THIS VISION OF ALTERNATIVE FOOD SYSTEMS CAN PROVIDE A VIABLE FOOD SECURITY STRATEGY FOR HUMANITY'S GROWING POPULATION.



FOR INSTANCE, WHILE THERE IS A HUGE DISAGREEMENT AMONGST SCIENTISTS, MANY POINT OUT FARMS USING "ALTERNATIVE" METHODS TEND TO HAVE LOWER YIELDS⁷, WHEN COMPARED ON A LIKE FOR LIKE BASIS, WITH CONVENTIONAL FARMS⁸. THIS MEANS THAT MANY SCIENTISTS WORRY THAT IF WE ARE GOING TO FEED A GROWING POPULATION USING "ALTERNATIVE" FARMING PRACTICES, WE'LL NEED MORE LAND, OR WE'LL HAVE TO CUT DOWN ON OUR CONSUMPTION OR WASTE IN OTHER WAYS⁹.

