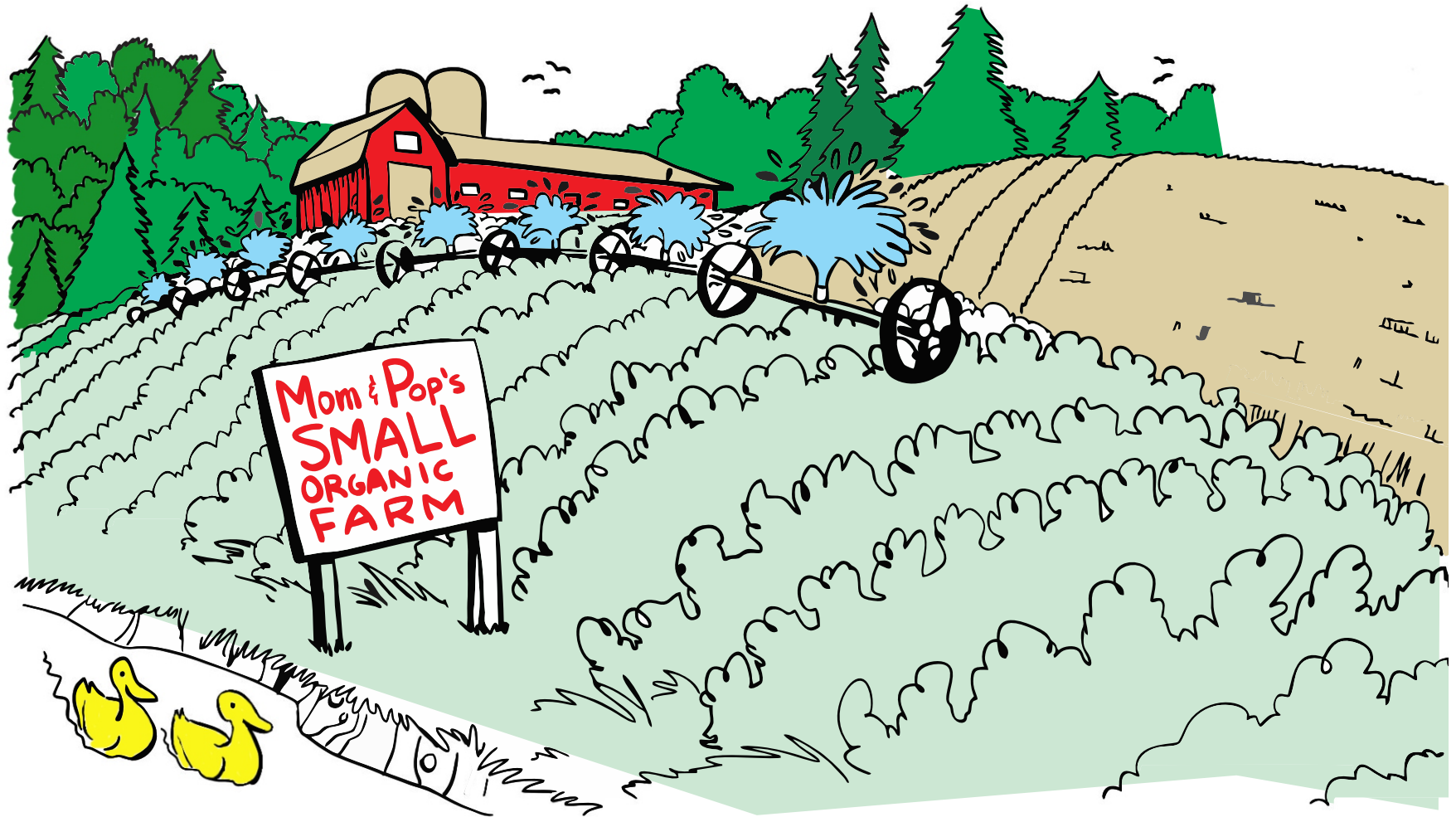
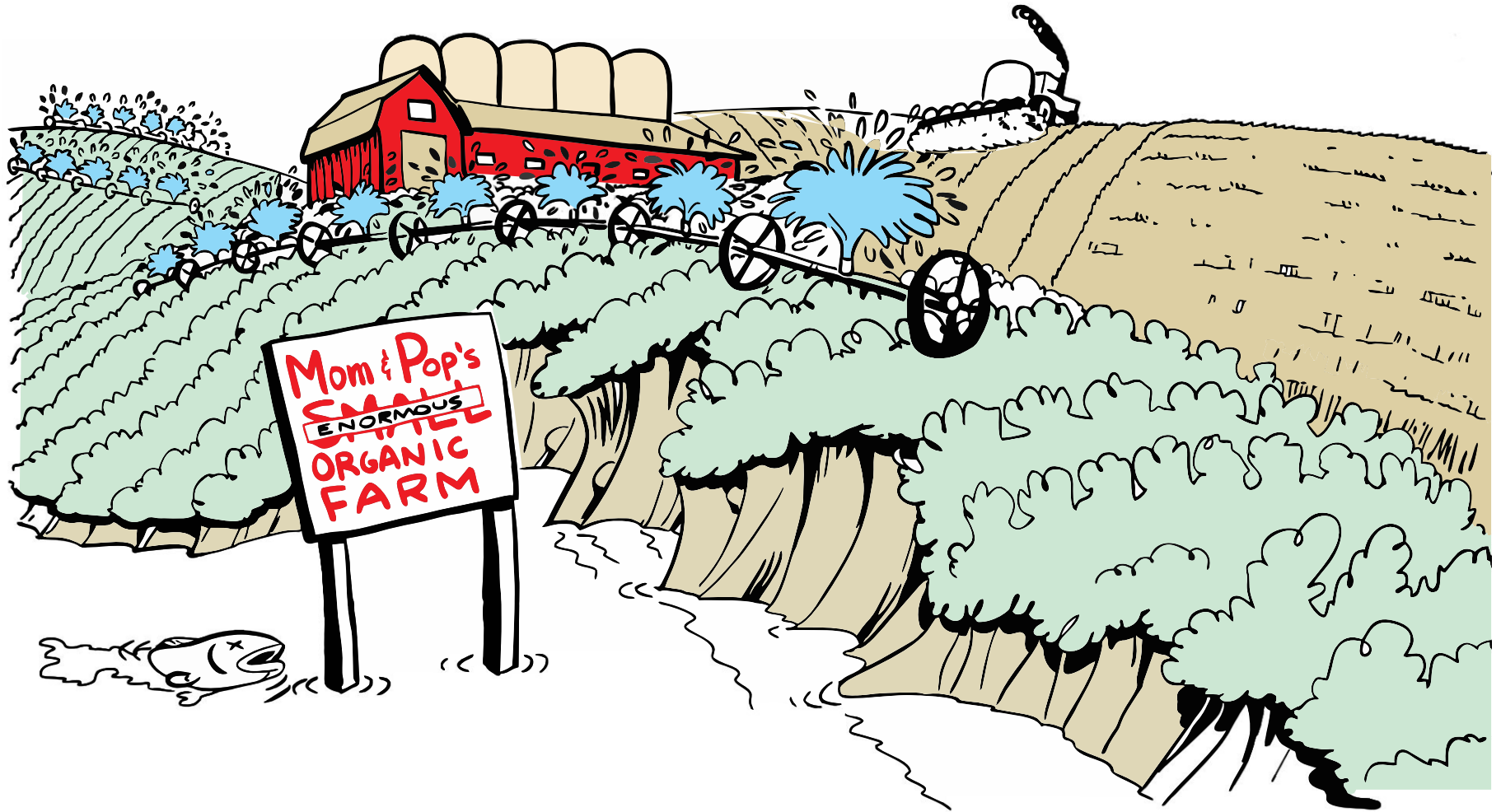
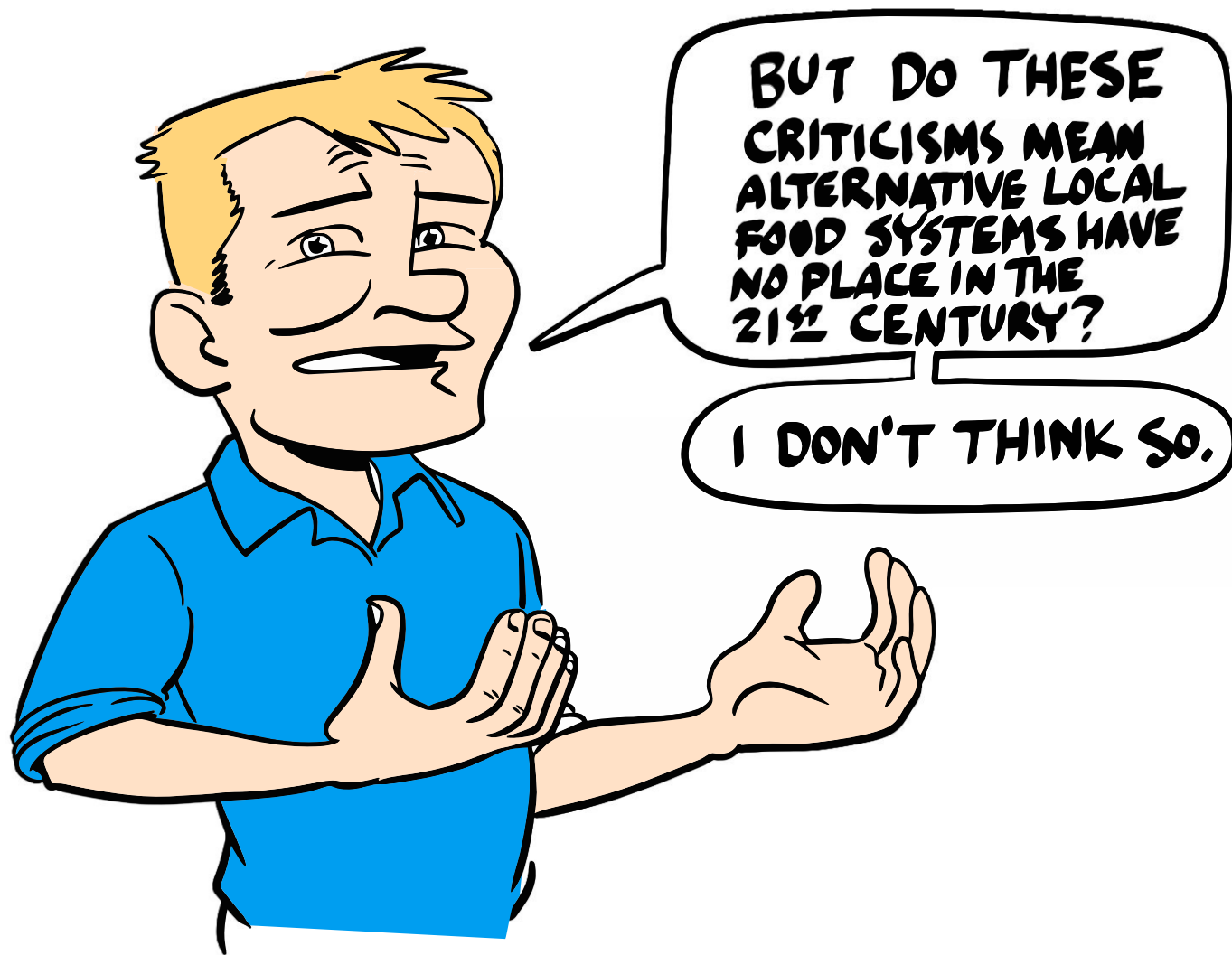


A SECOND COMMON CRITICISM LEVELLED AGAINST THE PROMOTERS OF ALTERNATIVE FOOD SYSTEMS IS THAT WHENEVER "ALTERNATIVE FOOD ENTERPRISES" TRY TO GROW BIGGER. . .

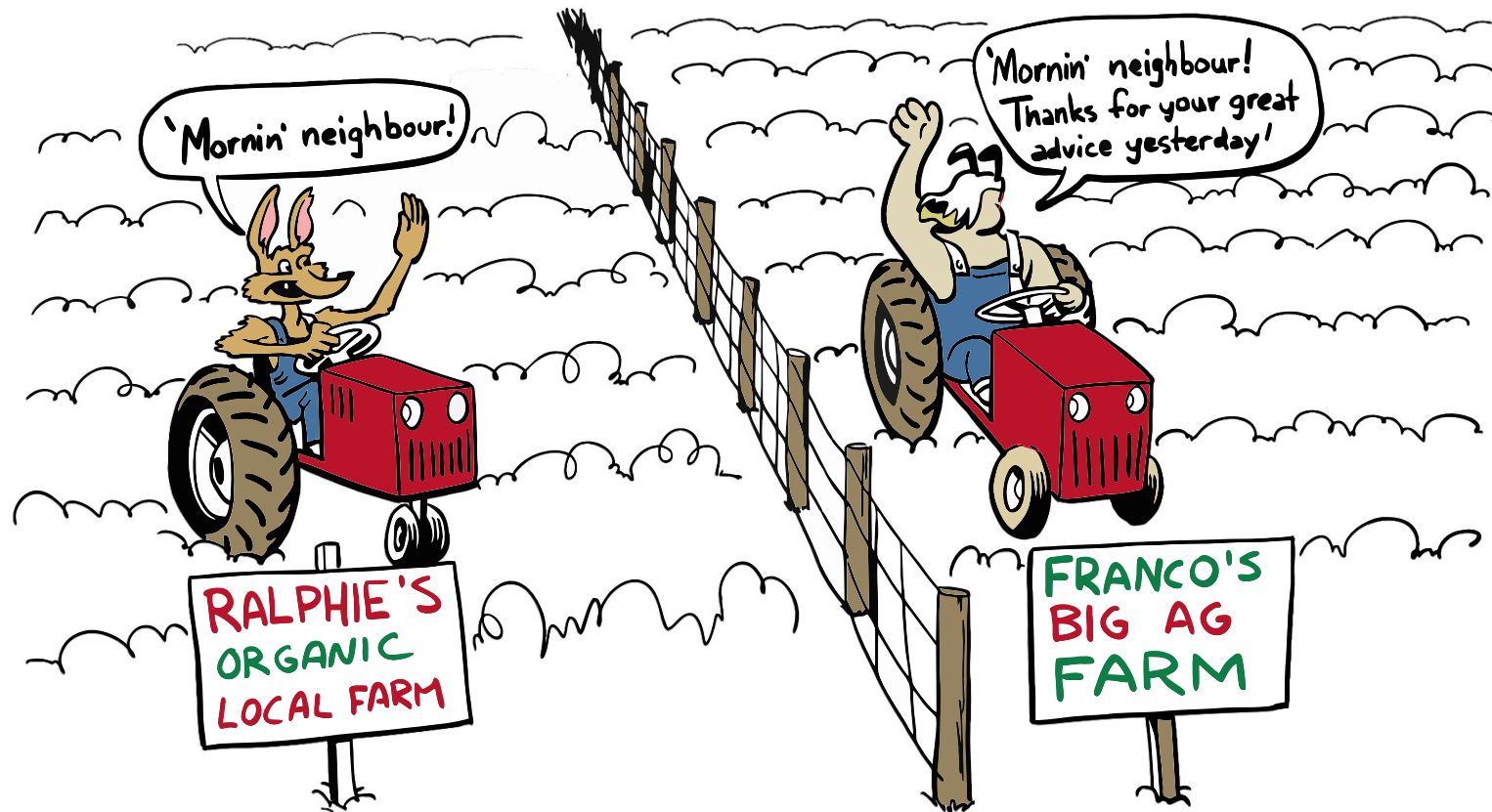


... THEY END UP LOOKING JUST LIKE CONVENTIONAL FARMS¹⁰.





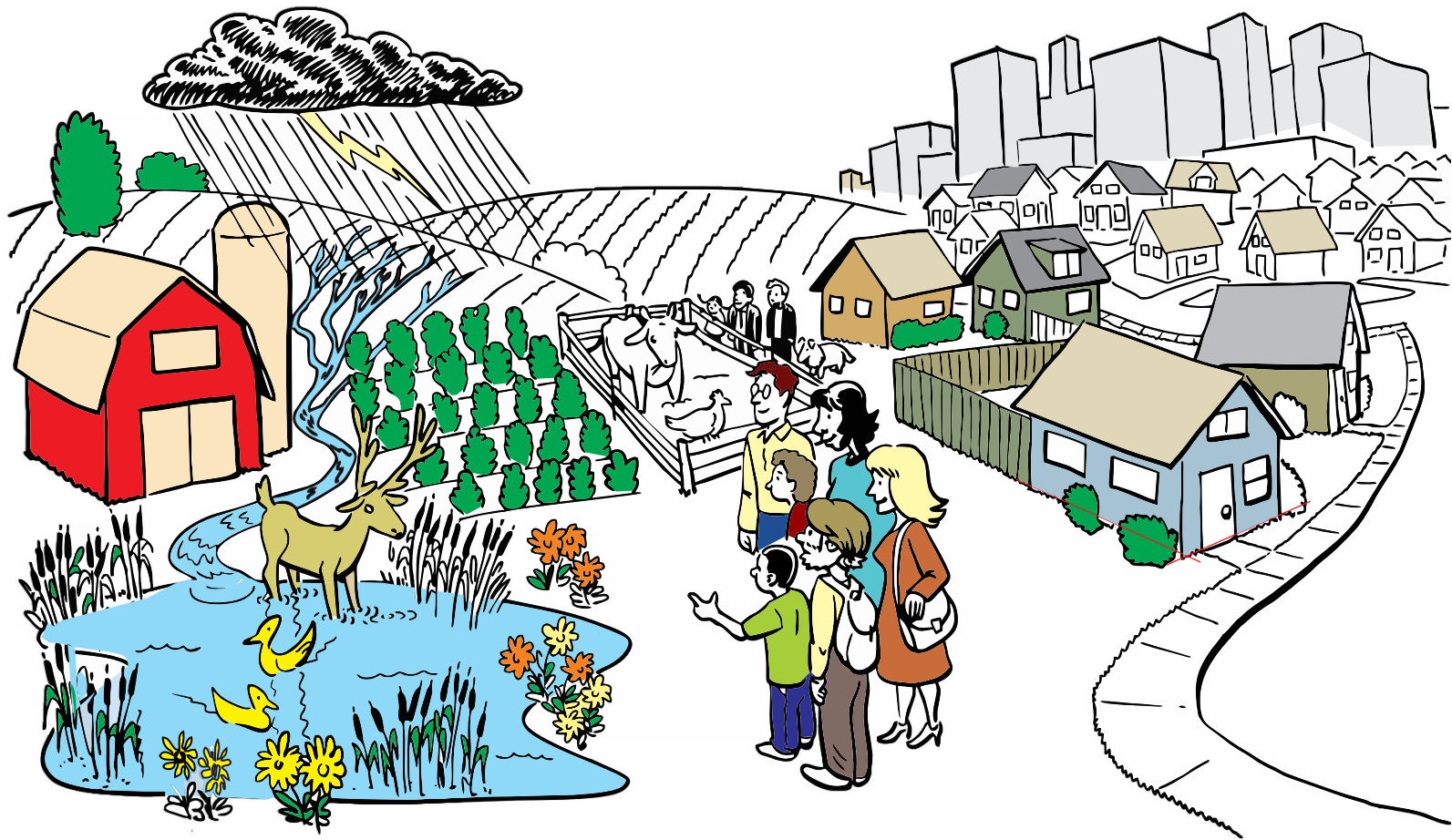
EVEN IF LOCAL ALTERNATIVE FOOD SYSTEMS DON'T FEED ALL OF US ALL THE TIME, IT DOESN'T MEAN THAT THERE IS NO ROLE FOR SUCH SYSTEMS AS A COMPONENT OF A SECURE AND RESILIENT FOOD SECURITY STRATEGY. LOCAL OR ALTERNATIVE FOOD SYSTEMS ADD DIVERSITY TO OUR FARMING LANDSCAPES. AND DIVERSITY IS VERY IMPORTANT BECAUSE ALTERNATIVE FARMING PRACTICES ALSO OFTEN PROVIDE THE TEMPLATE TO HELP IMPROVE THE DESIGN OF MORE MAINSTREAM SYSTEMS.





ALTERNATIVE FOOD SYSTEMS, ESPECIALLY IN POOR REGIONS OF THE WORLD, PROVIDE A BUFFER BETWEEN CONSUMERS AND THE VOLATILITY OF THE INTERNATIONAL MARKET, WHILE ALSO EMPOWERING PEOPLE BY GIVING THEM SOME CONTROL OVER THEIR FOOD¹¹.

FINALLY, HAVING LOCAL FARMS INTEGRATED INTO THE FABRIC OF URBAN LIFE CONNECTS CITY DWELLERS WITH THEIR FOOD, MAKING THEM AWARE OF THE ECOSYSTEMS ON WHICH WE ALL DEPEND¹². THEY PROVIDE HABITAT FOR WILDLIFE. THEY TRAP STORM WATER BEFORE IT DAMAGES PEOPLE'S HOMES. AND THEY SHOULD BE BEAUTIFUL.

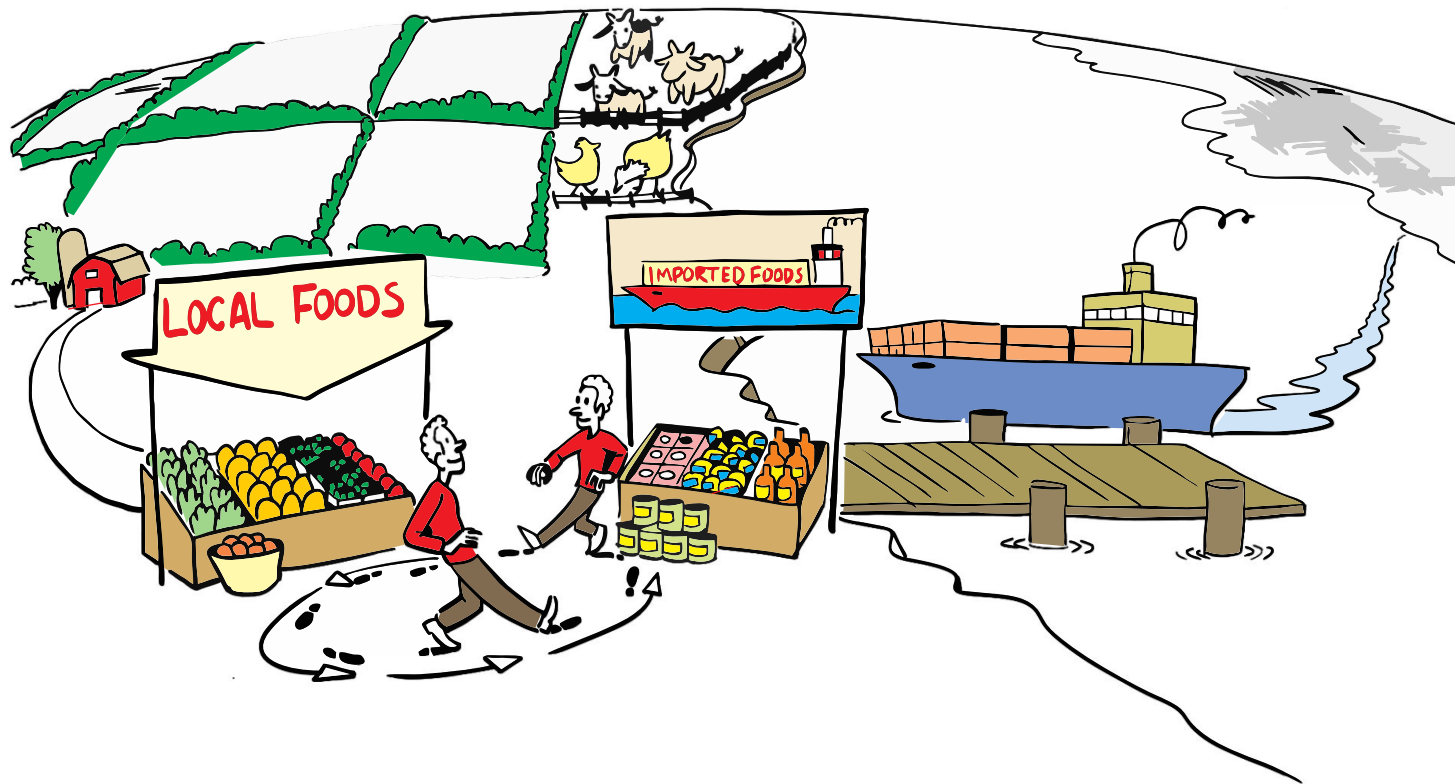


THEREFORE, MY OWN READING OF THE DEBATE AROUND ALTERNATIVE FARMING SYSTEMS TELLS ME THAT TO BE SUSTAINABLE WE MUST SUPPORT LOCAL FOOD SYSTEMS THAT USE ALTERNATIVE AGRICULTURAL PRACTICES.



WE NEED TO DO THIS AS CONSUMERS AS WELL AS THROUGH POLICY THAT SHOULD FOSTER LOCAL FOOD SYSTEMS BY MAKING SURE THAT FARMERS HAVE ACCESS TO LOCAL PROCESSING FACILITIES AND LOCAL MARKETS¹³.

BUT WE MUST ALSO REALIZE THAT LOCAL AND ALTERNATIVE WON'T FEED US ALL. WE'LL BE RELYING ON OUR CONVENTIONAL FARMING SYSTEMS THAT PRODUCE HUGE AMOUNTS OF FOOD IN THE WORLD'S BREAD BASKETS FOR THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE, ALBEIT WITH HIGH FOSSIL FUEL INPUTS. SO WHAT WE NEED IS A BALANCED APPROACH: OUR FOOD SECURITY WILL BE ENHANCED IF ALL OF US ARE ABLE TO DRAW FROM BOTH GLOBAL AND LOCAL SYSTEMS.



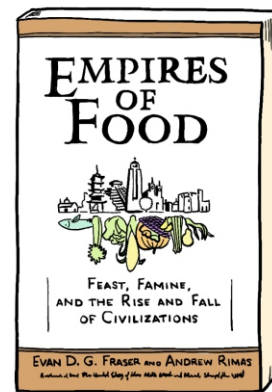
BUT THAT'S ALL FOR NOW. IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN LEARNING MORE, YOU CAN CHECK OUT MY RECENT BOOK EMPIRES OF FOOD.

ALSO, YOU CAN FIND ME ON YOUTUBE, FACEBOOK AND TWITTER WHERE I REGULARLY POST ABOUT ISSUES RELATING TO GLOBAL FOOD SECURITY.

THE WEBSITE WWW.FEEDINGNINEBILLION.COM HOSTS ANNOTATED SCRIPTS FOR ALL THE VIDEOS ALONG WITH REFERENCES AND A BLOG.

I HOPE TO SEE YOU AGAIN, BUT UNTIL THEN, THANKS FOR WATCHING!

FeedingNineBillion.com



ENDNOTES:

¹See the following article: von Braun, J. (2008), "High and rising food prices: why are they rising, who is affected, how are they affected and what should be done?", paper presented at the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) Conference on Addressing the Challenges of a Changing World Food Situation: Preventing Crisis and Leveraging Opportunity, Washington, DC, April 11. This paper, and a number of others are available at: www.ifpri.org/themes/foodprices/foodprices.asp

²Many fear that multinational corporations have monopolized the genetic resources of agriculture, and have thereby threatened heritage seed varieties. Here is an article on this:
WITTMAN, H. 2009. Reworking the metabolic rift: La Vía Campesina, agrarian citizenship, and food sovereignty. *Journal of Peasant Studies*, 36, 805-826. This article is available at the following URL:
http://landfood.ubc.ca/publications/Wittman_2009_JPS_Food_Sovereignty.pdf

³See literature by Kerry Preibisch, for instance: PREIBISCH, K. and ENCALADA GREZ, E. 2010. The Other Side of el Otro Lado: Mexican Migrant Women and Labor Flexibility in Canadian agriculture. *Signs*, 35(2), 289-316.

⁴Here is an academic account of this: Mount, P. (2012). Growing local food : scale and local food systems governance, 107–121. doi:10.1007/s10460-011-9331-0

⁵The following is a great book that details a couple's year of trying to live locally: SMITH, ALISA and MACKINNON, J. 2007. *The 100-mile diet: a year of local eating*. Toronto: Random House Canada.

⁶Described as "the world's largest social movement", La Via Campesina's 20th anniversary is celebrated in this Guardian newspaper article. Provost, Claire. "La Via Campesina Celebrates 20 Years of Standing up for Food Sovereignty." *The Guardian*. N.p., 17 June 2013:
<http://www.guardian.co.uk/global-development/poverty-matters/2013/jun/17/la-via-campesina-food-sovereignty>

⁷While alternative agriculture tends to lead to lower yields, it generally requires lower production costs, thereby giving farmers similar returns on their investment. Reganold, John P., Robert I. Papendick, and James F. Parr. "Sustainable Agriculture." *Scientific American* June 1990: 112-20.
<http://oregonstate.edu/instruct/bi430-fs430/Documents-2004/7B-MIN%20TILL%20AG/Sustainable%20Agr%C3%89hn%20Reganold.pdf>

⁸It has to be noted that this is a topic where experts really disagree a lot. One major "meta" study (i.e. a study that reviewed the results of a large number of other studies) showed that organic farms are on average 34% less productive than ones that used conventional inputs. (see: Seufert, Verena, Navin Ramankutty, and Jonathan A. Foley. "Comparing the Yields of Organic and Conventional Agriculture." *Nature* 485.7397 (n.d.): 229-32. *Nature: International Weekly Journal of Science*. : <http://www.nature.com/nature/journal/v485/n7397/full/nature11069.html>) But when this study was

published lots of authors were quick to point out that organic farmers produce additional benefits for biodiversity that were not accounted for in this paper. Another major review of this topic was published by a large group of scientists in 2009. Called the International Assessment of Agricultural Knowledge, Science and Technology for Development, this report stressed the need to promote what's called "multi-functional" farms, which are farms that provide both food but also environmental benefits too. A summary of this report is available at: <http://www.sciencemag.org/content/320/5874/320.full>. You can also look for the full report by googling "agriculture at a crossroads."

⁹Some scientists call this the "land sparing" or "land sharing" debate. Briefly, it has been argued that there are two basic strategies at play. We can farm intensively in small areas, producing a lot of food in a concentrated region, and thus "spare" land for other uses elsewhere; or we can farm less intensively and let environmental benefits and food production "share" the same landscape. The following link provides a nice summary of this debate: <http://ecologyforacrowdedplanet.wordpress.com/2012/09/23/land-sharing-vs-land-sparing-meeting-agricultural-and-biodiversity-goals/>

¹⁰These academic sources reflect research on alternative agriculture policies.

1. JAFFEE, D. & HOWARD, P. 2010. Corporate cooptation of organic and fair trade standards. *Agriculture and Human Values*, 27, 387-399. <http://www.fairtradewire.com/wp-content/uploads/2010/09/Jaffee-Howard-2010-Cooptation-AHV1.pdf>
2. DOLAN, C. 2010. Virtual moralities: The mainstreaming of Fairtrade in Kenyan tea fields. *Geoforum*, 41, 33-43. <http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0016718509000037>
3. EDWARD, P. & TALLONTIRE, A. 2009. Business and development: towards re-politicisation. *Journal of International Development*, 21. <http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/jid.1614/abstract>
4. TALLONTIRE, A. 2009. Top heavy? Governance issues and policy decisions for the Fair Trade movement. *Journal of International Development*, 21, 1004-1014. <http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/jid.1636/abstract>

¹¹Here is an academic article that provides some background on this: Galtier, F. (2011). Which instruments best tackle food price instability in developing countries? *Development in Practice*, 21(4-5), 526–535. doi:10.1080/09614524.2011.566919

¹²Here is an academic article that provides some background on this: BANE, PETER. 2012. *The Permaculture Handbook*. Gabriola, B.B.: New Society Publishers.

¹³Here is an academic article that provides some background on this: GOOCH, MARTIN. 2009. Feasibility study for establishing a local food distribution initiative in Niagara & Hamilton. Toronto, Ont.: Friends of the Greenbelt Foundation.

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