Good Food Timeline 1941-2014

*Timeline and Appendices developed by the MSU Center for Regional Food Systems. Timeline is part of the publication “The Local Food Movement: Setting the Stage for Good Food.”

1. Recommended Daily Allowances (RDAs) are established to allow individuals to assess nutrient intake levels.
2. The Bracero program between U.S. and Mexico brings in more than 4 million Mexican farm laborers.
3. The Agricultural Act of 1949 makes commodities available for distribution to needy people through school lunch programs, Bureau of Indian Affairs and public welfare organizations.
4. The U.S. federal minimum wage is set to $0.75 per hour, $7.25 in 2013 dollars.
5. The first McDonald’s restaurant, owned by Ray Kroc, is opened in Illinois.
6. The U.S. federal minimum wage is increased 50 cents per hour ($9.13 in 2013 dollars).
7. Four African-American university students begin a sit-in at a Woolworth store lunch counter in Greensboro, N.C., after being told they may not eat while utilizing the federal Food Stamp Program.
8. The Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) begins, safeguarding the health and wellness of pregnant women and children.
9. The Civil Rights Act of 1964 prohibits discrimination based on race, sex, ethnicity or religion.
10. The right of obesity for adults, defined as a body mass index over 30, in the U.S. is reported to be 13.4% of the population.
11. The number of farmers markets in the U.S. is estimated at 340.
12. The Bracero program between U.S. and Mexico brings in more than 4 million Mexican farm laborers.
13. The number of farmers markets in the U.S. is estimated at 340.
14. The first national Earth Day is celebrated in the U.S.
15. The Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC) begins, safeguarding the health and wellness of pregnant women and children.
16. The rate of obesity for adults is reported to be 14.5%.
17. The U.S. federal minimum wage is increased to $2.10 per hour ($9.13 in 2013 dollars).
18. The California Labor Relations Act becomes law, allowing farm workers the right to boycott and to collectively bargain.
19. The Farmer-to-Consumer Direct Marketing Act passes, prompting the development and expansion of direct marketing.
20. U.S. food expenditures as share of disposable personal income is 13.4%.
21. 7.6 million Americans participate in the federal Food Stamp Program (3.4% of population).
22. The U.S. federal minimum wage is set at $3.35 per hour ($8.61 in 2013 dollars).
23. The Migrant and Seasonal Agricultural Worker Protection Act (MSPA) passes to provide agricultural employees financial and safety protection in the workplace.
24. The National Center for Food Stamps chain is replaced by the National Food Stamp Program.
25. The first community supported agriculture (CSA) enterprise opens in the U.S.
26. The first food policy council forms is Knoxville, Tennessee.
27. The first graphic USDA “food pyramid” is released to help individuals visualize a healthy, balanced diet.
28. The community supported agriculture (CSA) count in the U.S. grows to 60.
29. The federal minimum hourly wage in the U.S. is increased to $4.25 ($7.29 in 2013 dollars).
30. A new USDA food guide pyramid is released.
31. The Coalition of Immokalee Workers is founded to fight for fair worker wages.
32. The Nutrition Labelling and Education Act requires a nutrition label to be on all packaged foods sold in the U.S.
33. The number of farmers markets in the U.S. grows to 1,765.
34. The first pilot farm to school program is launched in California and Florida.
35. Rising costs for diabetes-related treatment accounts for 9.1% of U.S. medical care.
36. Walmart opens its first fully stocked grocery stores at supercenters. The chain has 4% of national food grocery sales.
37. The average hourly wage for non-supervisory farm workers is $10.05.
38. The rate of obesity for adults aged 20-74 in the U.S. jumps from 22.3% in 1994 to 30.9%.
39. USDA Organic Food Regulations take effect.
40. The number of farmers markets in the U.S. grows to 3,704.
41. All 50 states, Washington, D.C., the Virgin Islands, and Guam are operating EBT systems to issue food benefits.
42. 25.5 million Americans are utilizing the federal Food Stamp Program (8.7% of population).
43. The new visual for the USDA food pyramid, MyPyramid, is launched.
44. The community supported agriculture (CSA) count in the U.S. grows to 600.
45. The federal minimum hourly wage in the U.S. is increased to $6.35 ($9.26 in 2013 dollars).
46. The Kellogg Foundation and The Kellogg Company launch MyPyramid.
47. “Locavore” is word of the year.
48. The National Farm to School Network is founded.
49. The former federal Food and Agriculture Program is renamed “Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).”
50. Nearly 1 in 4 (23%) of Native American and Alaska Native households are food insecure, versus 15% of all U.S. households.
51. Local food sales across the U.S. gross nearly $5 billion.
52. The prevalence of hunger in the U.S. is estimated at 14.6%, up from 11.9% in 2004.
53. The Food, Conservation and Energy Act (Farm Bill) of 2008 requests a study of areas with limited access to affordable and nutritious food.
54. The federal minimum hourly wage in the U.S. increases to $7.25 ($7.99 in 2013 dollars).
55. Taco Bell pays more for tomatoes so that farm workers can earn more.
56. The number of farmers markets in the U.S. grows to 1,933.
57. The CSA count in the U.S. grows to 3,932.
58. The American Medical Association passes a resolution supporting sustainable food systems.
59. The National Center for Food and Agriculture is reported to be 27% white, 46% black, 3% Hispanic, and 4% of Latino, Asian, and black, respectively.
60. Obesity rate for adults aged 20-74 in U.S. is at 36.1%, up from 30.9% in 2000.
61. Let’s Move! First Lady Michelle Obama campaign fights childhood obesity.
62. The Healthy Hunger-Free Kids Act authorizes funding and sets new policy for USDA’s core nutrition programs in schools.
63. Nearly one in three African-American children (32%) live in food insecure households, as compared to one in six (16.0%) Caucasian children.
64. The number of farmers markets in the U.S. grows to 7,864.
65. The national average hourly wage for non-supervisory farm workers is increased to $10.05.
66. Since 2010, $77 million has been allocated to the Healthy Food Financing Initiative.
67. Nearly 86% of U.S. food service workers earn wages at or below the poverty level.
68. USDA’s first-ever Farm to School Census shows 38,000 schools with 21 million students participating.
69. 47.7 million Americans participate in the SNAP program (15.1% of population), with SNAP rates at farmers markets doubling between 2011 and 2013.
70. The National Survey of Food Hub report reveals that two-thirds are operating without grant funding, and one-half accept SNAP benefits.
71. Nearly 500 U.S. hospitals have signed on to the Healthy Food in Health Care program.
72. Walmart becomes the third major U.S. food retailer (following Whole Foods and Trader Joe’s) to sign on to the Coalition of Immokalee Workers’ Fair Food Program.