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A U.S. Food Policy

A U.S. Food Policy

During our country's first 200 years, the primary focus of our food policy was on adequate supplies—simply making sure that everyone had enough to eat. But this emphasis has changed in recent years primarily due to our agricultural abundance. Generally adequate supplies have allowed consideration of other food policy issues—nutrition, food safety and quality, and food assistance.

As a result, attempts have been made to distinquish food and farm policy. The author argues that the distinction is not too important since a broad food policy really encompasses both the traditional farm and the contemporary nutrition programs. Agricultural production and other nutrition-related problems are public issues, too important nationally to be resolved within a narrow farm policy context.

This article takes a look at the factors that have led to this change in emphasis in U.S. food policy—and the successes and problems that have accompanied the change.

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