



GROWING

Growers use heavy equipment to prepare soil, and plant and maintain crops on huge farms of single “monocrops.”



HARVESTING

Farm workers gather the ripened crop from the field using large machinery, harvesting great quantities at once.



TRANSPORTING

Transportation workers move the food by air, truck, train, ship, or barge. Transporting may happen at many steps and for very long hauls.



PROCESSING

Food processors use factory equipment to chop, grind, dry, boil, can, or freeze food to preserve it or to make it more convenient. Processed food is often greatly altered from its natural state.





PACKAGING

Workers operate machinery to put food into cans, bags, boxes, or other containers for sale. The packaging protects food and helps sell it.



WHOLESALE

Wholesalers sell and distribute large quantities of foods to stores.



RETAIL

Retailers sell foods to customers, usually in supermarkets, grocery stores, or other stores.



EATING

People buy, prepare, and eat the food.





DISPOSING

People discard leftover food and packaging. While most is recyclable or compostable, much of it ends up in landfills.

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DISPOSING

Communities collect kitchen scraps for composting to add to farm soil. Minimal packaging means less in the landfill.



GROWING

Farmers prepare soil, plant, and tend crops on small farms growing a variety of crops.



HARVESTING

Farm workers often gather the ripened crops by hand from the field.



PACKING

Farm workers put foods in reusable boxes or bags for transport.



TRANSPORTING

Farmers move the food by truck or van to a farmers' market, restaurant, or local store.



EATING

People buy, prepare, and eat the food.



RETAILING

Farmers, restaurant owners, or local store owners sell food to customers.

INDUSTRIAL FOOD SYSTEM



LOCAL FOOD SYSTEM

