

COVID-19 Food Systems



Part 1: Pandemic Purchasing and

Problem Solving

Featuring: Michaela Kandzer and Sarah Carte

Main Ideas

- Supply chains experienced interruptions due to facility closures and employee health.
- As food prices increased, more people began growing food at home.
- Mobile pick-up and delivery became a lasting trend.
- Farms adapted to the times, creating drive-thrus and direct consumer sale programs.

Discussion Questions

1. Why would consumers be more likely to purchase food locally during a pandemic?
2. Do you think mobile pick-up and delivery will remain popular after the pandemic? Why or why not?
3. What can we learn about pandemic purchasing habits from this study?
4. How are direct farm to consumer sales an effective way to keep food accessible?

Tips from the Speaker

1. Agriculture must adapt as the world changes.
2. Keep an eye out for trends in food and agriculture as global crises arise.
3. Communicators must inform the public on the supply chain and food safety.

Other Resources

<https://ruralengagement.org/lessons-from-covid-19/>

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Part 2: Combatting Interruptions

in the Food System

Featuring: Dr. Hikaru Peterson and Dr. Christa Court

Main Ideas

- The food system has never been affected by both supply and demand at this magnitude.
- Global supply chains were severely altered by the pandemic, leading to an increased reliance on regional sources.
- There were shortages in the market along with surpluses in production.
- The food supply chain has many steps, including traveling from field, to warehouse, to sorting, to packaging, to truck, and to store.

Discussion Questions

1. How can global and regional supply chains work together to prevent interruptions?
2. What happened to the food supply chain during each phase of the pandemic? How can we use these trends to prepare for interruptions in the future?
3. How did the interruption in the food supply chain affect you? What observations did you make about food availability throughout the pandemic?

Tips from the Speaker

1. Be aware of trends in the food industry to make informed choices as a consumer.
2. Understand how the food supply chain works and experiment with local commodities.

Other Resources

<https://ruralengagement.org/lessons-from-covid-19/>
<https://fred.ifas.ufl.edu/extension/economic-impact-analysis-program/>

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