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12 Quick Essays That Can Change the Post-COVID Food System

Dear Amy,



I used to start these newsletters by letting you know where in the world I happened to be — Dakar or Des Moines, Milan or Mumbai. But for the past few months, like many of you, I've been hunkered down at home, and the way I've coped with our rapidly changing world is by listening—to farmers, to community members, to scientists, to economists, to chefs, to activists, to policymakers, to public health advocates, and to so many other stakeholders working to improve our food system.

I want to thank the journal *Agriculture and Human Values* for also engaging with and listening to a diversity of experts. They asked more than 80 experts to write articles drilling deep into a specific facet of COVID-19's impact on the food system. [This collection](#), which Food Tank is honored to have contributed to, represents not only a snapshot of this moment in time but also a roadmap to a more just and sustainable future.

This week, Food Tank is highlighting 12 of the many articles from this series that lay the groundwork for a less broken food system: **Alison Hope Alkon, Sarah Bowen, Yuki Kato, and Kara Alexis Young, food justice and equity scholars**, on unequal vulnerability to COVID; **Ana Moragues-Faus, political economist of food**, on building distributive food economies; **Bill McKibben, climate change scientist**, on playing by nature's rules; **Edie Mukiibi of Slow Food International** on food security in Africa; **Elizabeth Hoover, Indigenous foodways scholar**, on Native nations' responses to the pandemic; **Elizabeth Mpofu, general coordinator of Via Campesina**, on how globalization leaves peasant farmers behind; **Gary Paul Nabhan, ethnobotanist and seed saving advocate**, on how COVID will change crops; **Jeff Moyer, CEO of The Rodale Institute**, on how soil health equals human health; **Julian Aygeman and Alexandra Duprey, urban food justice scholars**, on protecting undocumented immigrants during COVID; **Leah Penniman, Black farmer and food sovereignty advocate**, on how food can be liberation; **Mary Hendrickson, rural food systems researcher**, on the dangers of agribusiness consolidation; and **Patrick Holden, farmer and sustainability advocate**, on a healthier local food economy.

Read more about each of these essays by [CLICKING HERE](#).

And I also invite you to join me in listening to inspiring and impactful food system folks twice every day, LIVE on our [YouTube channel](#), [Facebook Live](#), [Twitter](#), and [LinkedIn](#). If you're a fan of our conversations and want to show your support, please [subscribe, rate, and review Food Talk with Dani Nierenberg](#) to help other people learn about how we can all transform the food system.

What voices are you listening to as we rebuild the food system after this pandemic? Tell me at danielle@foodtank.com—I'd love to listen with you.

Stay well,

Danielle Nierenberg

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Catch Up on Our Daily Food Tank Live Conversations:

[Chef Marc Murphy on the Restaurant Industry and Finding New Opportunities](#)

Celebrity chef Marc Murphy — a frequent judge on Food Network's "Chopped" — joins Dani to talk about his culinary style, advocacy in the food system, the future of the restaurant industry, and new opportunities in his career.

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[On World Oceans Day, Mark Zimring and Niaz Dorry Talk About Building Sustainable Fisheries of All Sizes](#)

Mark Zimring, who focuses on large-scale fisheries at The Nature Conservancy, talks about how to better monitor fishing practices around the world. Then, Dani is joined by Niaz Dorry, the leader of the Northwest Atlantic Marine Alliance and the National Family Farm Coalition.

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[Emily Simoness Talks the Intersection of Food and the Arts, Feeding Food-Insecure Families](#)

The founder and executive director of SPACE on Ryder Farm, Emily Simoness, talks about SPACE's intentions to support food-insecure families, the intersection of the food system and the arts, and the ways that artist residencies at SPACE can bring more people into the food system.

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