



FOOD TECH C O N N E C T

FOOD+TECH BYTES your guide to the latest food tech news

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FEATURED

[Small Farmers Left Behind in Covid Relief, Hospitality Industry Unemployment Remains at Depression-Era Levels + More](#)

Our round-up of this week's most popular business, tech, investment and policy news.

[Pathways to Equity, Diversity + Inclusion: Hiring Resource](#) - *Oyster Sunday*

This Equity, Diversity + Inclusion Hiring Resource aims to help operators to ensure their tables are filled with the best, and most equal representation of talent possible – from drafting job descriptions to onboarding new employees.

[5 Steps to Move Your Food, Beverage or Hospitality Business to Equity](#)

Jomaree Pinkard, co-founder and CEO of Hella Cocktail Co, outlines concrete steps businesses and investors can take to foster equity in the food, beverage and hospitality industries.

[Food & Ag Anti-Racism Resources + Black Food & Farm Businesses to Support](#)

We've compiled a list of resources to learn about systemic racism in the food and agriculture industries. We also highlight Black food and farm businesses and organizations to support.



CPG

[China Says Frozen Chicken Wings from Brazil Test Positive for Virus](#) - *Bloomberg*

The positive sample appears to have been taken from the surface of the meat, while previously reported positive cases from other Chinese cities have been from the surface of packaging on imported seafood.

[Upcycled Molecular Coffee Startup Atomo Raises \\$9m Seed Funding](#) - *AgFunder*

S2G Ventures and Horizons Ventures co-led the round. Funding will go towards bringing the product to market.

[Diseased Chicken for Dinner? The USDA Is Considering It](#) - *Bloomberg*

A proposed new rule would allow poultry plants to process diseased chickens. That's the last thing Americans need.

[UK: British Startup THIS Raises €3.8M on Seedrs to Grow Its Hyper Realistic Plant-Based Food for Meat Lovers](#) - *Eu-Startups*

Backed, Five Seasons Ventures, Idinvest Partners, Seedcamp and Manta Ray Ventures all

participated. Funding will be used to expand the company's innovative function, manufacturing capacity and team.

[Dog Food Startup Sundays Launches Its Air-Dried Kibble Alternative](#) - *TechCrunch*

It has raised \$2.27m from Red Sea Ventures, Box Group, Great Oaks Ventures, Shrug Capital, Matt Salzberg, Zach Klein and others.

[VeggieVictory, Nigeria's First Plant-Based Meat Company, Receives Angel Investment](#) - *The Spoon*

Financial terms were not disclosed. Products are currently available in 12 states within Nigeria, with plans on expanding to neighboring West African countries.

[Good Food Brands Launches a Discovery Box for Black-Owned Food and Beverage Brands during National Black Business Month](#) - *Food & Beverage*

Businesses participating include Partake Foods, TeaSquares, Do Well, Triple A Chin Chin and more.

[Evo Foods Wants to Disrupt India's Food Market with Plant-Based Eggs](#) - *Tech in Asia*

Funding came from VegInvest, Wild Earth co-founder Ryan Bethencourt, Shiok Meats co-founder Sandhya Sriram, and the US-based VC firm Big Idea Ventures. Funding will help the startup expand to the US by the end of next year.

[GrubMarket Invests in Protein with Acquisition of Grand Food](#) - *FoodBev*

Financial terms were undisclosed. Grand Food has already developed close relationships with protein production facilities in California, the Midwest and Europe.

[New York Accuses Hillandale Farms of Egg Price Gouging](#) - *Food Dive*

The lawsuit said the egg produce made \$4m in two months from unlawful price increases on its eggs, charging up to four times the price of eggs from the beginning of the year.



RESTAURANTS

[75% of Independent Restaurants Took Out over \\$50K in Debt in May](#) - *Restaurant Dive*

Twelve percent said they took out over \$500k in debt. Despite 92% of respondents in May saying they received PPP loans, 60% were confident they would survive the current crisis.

[The Nation Wanted to Eat Out Again. Everyone Has Paid the Price.](#) - *New York Times*

Governments and restaurant owners wanted to get back to business. But bars and restaurants have become a focal point for clusters of Covid infections.

[OpenTable's New CEO Sees a Shakeout Looming for US Restaurants](#) - *Bloomberg*

Deby Soo is confident consumer demand will return after the pandemic, but it may already be too late to save many restaurants. The industry remains on track to lose 25% of its eateries nationwide.

[Takeout Sales Are Way Up. Will Profits Follow?](#) - *Bloomberg*

This earnings season saw sales soar. But Uber and Grubhub lost \$837m and \$45.4m for the quarter, respectively. Delivery Hero is expected to lose more than \$800m for the year.

[Restaurants Fuel Uber's Rocketship](#) - *Expedite*

Its delivery business is bigger than rides right now and just as big as rides was a few years ago... but Uber's not cooking the food.

[How Much Worse Will It Get for New York's Restaurants?](#) - *Grubstreet*

It feels like we're watching the collapse of an entire industry in real time.

[SF Restaurant's \\$200-Per-Person Dome Is America's Problem in a Plastic Nutshell](#) - *SF Chronicle*

The striking structures exemplify everything that's inequitable about San Francisco. Critic Soleil Ho gets into why it's the perfect symbol of social safety net failures.

[Fat Brands Continues Expansion Tear with Purchase of Johnny Rockets for \\$25M](#) - *Restaurant Dive*

Once Johnny Rockets is added to its portfolio, Fat Brands will have more than 700 franchised and company-owned restaurants globally, and its annual systemwide sales would exceed \$700m.

[Grubhub's Merger Partner Needs to Defend Its Lunch](#) - *Wall Street Journal*

Just Eat Takeaway.com reported that revenue in six months through June increased by 44% at constant exchange rates, versus the comparable period of 2019.

[Why Fast Food's Smartest Operator Is Expanding When Business Is Terrible](#) - *Forbes*

Neal Aronson has spent the past decade buying iconic brands like Arby's, Buffalo Wild Wings and Jimmy John's. But Covid-19 is terrible for restaurants. His solution? Buy more.

[McDonald's Board Faces New Scrutiny of Investigation Into Former CEO](#) - *Wall Street Journal*

Some investors and corporate-governance groups are questioning the handling of Steve Easterbrook's departure and the supervision of the company.



RETAIL

[Grocery Workers Say Morale Is at an All-Time Low: 'They Don't Even Treat Us Like Humans Anymore'](#) - *The Washington Post*

Hailed as “heroes” at the onset of the pandemic, supermarket employees now say they are overworked, overwhelmed and feeling expendable again.

[Walmart and Instacart Partner for Same-Day US Delivery in Fight Against Amazon's Whole Foods](#) - *CNBC*

The partnership is in a pilot phase in four markets across California and in Oklahoma.

[Canada: Food-X Gets \\$2.6M Grant to Build Out Its E-Commerce Platform](#) - *The Spoon*

Funding came from the Digital Technology Supercluster. The company now serves Western Canada and has a partnership with Walmart for grocery fulfillment.

[Foxtrot Market Wants to Be the Corner Store of the Future](#) - *Grocery Dive*

The company that returned to its online roots during the pandemic now sees an opportunity to

take its omnichannel approach to cities across the US.

[Kroger to Launch Digital Marketplace This Fall](#) - *Supermarket News*

The retailer plans to partner with Mirakl, which specializes in B2C and B2B e-marketplaces. Initially, more than 50k items will be available to customers.

[Alibaba.com Launches First US Online Food Trade Show](#) - *FoodNavigator*

Taking place August 18-21, the event aims to raise awareness of Alibaba among US food and beverage brands and help firms connect with buyers.

[Meal Kit Winner Can Deliver an Extra Serving](#) - *Wall Street Journal*

HelloFresh reported that sales rose by 122% in the second quarter compared with the same three months of 2019. With Covid-19 infections spiking again, its winning streak can continue for a while longer.

[This Major Grocer Is Stocking Up on Plenty's Indoor Grown Greens](#) - *AgFunder*

Albertsons has partnered with Plenty to stock its vertically grown greens across 430 California store locations.

[IFood and Speedbird Aero Bringing Drone Food Delivery to Brazil](#) - *The Spoon*

The drone deliveries are set to start this October. IFood will use a hybrid approach that includes both drones and last-mile ground transportation.



AGRICULTURE

[S2G Ventures to Invest Up to \\$100M in Ocean and Seafood Firms](#) - *FoodBev*

It will focus on areas including seafood and alternative protein sources, aquaculture and supply chain innovation, ecosystem services, traceability and transparency, as well as algae and seaweed.

[10M Acres of Corn, Soybeans Flattened: Farmers 'Have Never Seen Anything Like This'](#) - *Des Moines Register*

Across Iowa, Monday's derecho pummeled homes, farms and businesses with winds nearing 100 mph.

[Temasek, Bayer Form New Company to Sell Seeds to Vertical Farms](#) - *Bloomberg*

Unfold has raised \$30m in an initial funding round and entering into an agreement for certain rights to germoplasm from Bayer's vegetable portfolio.

[How a 30-Ton Robot Could Help Crops Withstand Climate Change](#) - *Wall Street Journal*

What makes a plant thrive in the heat? In the Arizona desert, the 'Field Scanalyzer' is collecting data to learn the answer—and hopefully improve farming for biofuels and food.

[Industrial Hog Farms Are Breeding the Next Pandemic](#) - *Mother Jones*

And the government is doing a “very spotty” job of monitoring for dangerous strains of swine flu.

[The Scramble to Pluck 24 Billion Cherries in Eight Weeks](#) - *New York Times*

Every single one needs to be picked by hand — even in a pandemic. Seasonal workers say they may be essential, but they feel disposable.

[Ireland: MagGrow's Magnetic Spray Tech Attracts \\$7.1M for Series A Round](#) - *AgFunder*

Astanor Ventures led the round. The team is also exploring spraying-as-a-service models and might adopt these when conceiving solutions for emerging economies or smallholder farms.

[Indian Farmer Marketplace BigHaat Scores \\$2M Pre-Series A Funding](#) - *AgFunder*

The round was led by Beyond Next Ventures. Funding will be used to strengthen its team, tech stack and geographically expand services.

[US Groups Invest Billions in Industrial Ag in Africa. Experts Say It's not Ending Hunger or Helping Farmers](#) - *Civil Eats*

Two new reports shed light on how billions of dollars from public institutions and the Gates Foundation continue to flow to “Green Revolution” strategies despite claims of their failure.

[Farming Is an Act of Social Justice at Woven Roots Farm](#) - *Civil Eats*

In the Berkshire Mountains, Jen and Pete Salinetti’s regenerative farm practices and commitment to community have them well-positioned for this moment.

[In a First, Michigan Orders Farms and Meatpacking Plants to Test Workers for Covid-19](#) - *The Counter*

The state’s agricultural and food processing companies must test all workers by the end of the month—and commit to routine testing in the future.



EATERS

[The Eater Guide on How to Help Your Community During the Crisis](#) - *Eater*

The projects, groups, and organizations that are addressing food insecurity in light of COVID-19.

[Allergy Amulet Lands \\$3.3M Seed Round For Food Allergen Sensor](#) - *Crunchbase*

TitletownTech led the round. Funding will be used to manufacture beta units, help with product pre-orders, expand product offerings, grow its team, add additional partners and educate consumers.

[Multiple Bon Appétit Stars Resign From Appearing in Test Kitchen Videos \[Updated\]](#) - *Eater*

Six members of the BA Test Kitchen will no longer host videos following Condé Nast's alleged failure to adequately address inequities.

[You Have Pesticides in Your Body. But an Organic Diet Can Reduce Them by 70%](#) - *The Guardian*

A new study shows that US families consume cancer-linked glyphosate food. The good news: going organic rapidly reduces levels.

[This New App Offsets Your Carbon Footprint, Then Helps You Shrink It](#) - *Fast Company*

Klima lets you put money into projects such as solar or clean cookstoves, but it doesn't let you off with paying to not change your lifestyle.

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[Operations Manager at Ark Foods](#) - Brooklyn, NY

[Procurement Director at Sweetgreen](#) - Los Angeles, CA

[Farm Manager at Smallhold](#) - Austin, TX

[Culinary R&D Auditor at Thistle](#) - Vacaville, CA

[Marketing Manager at Salted](#) - Los Angeles, CA

[Recipe Writer and Content Manager at Nibble Apps](#) - Remote

[Vendor Sales and Success Manager at Pod Foods Co](#) - Remote

[Brand Manager at Partake Foods](#) - New York, NY

[Operations Coordinator at Partake Foods](#) - New York, NY

[Partnerships Manager at Kitchentown](#) - San Mateo, CA

[Vice President, Product Management at Leanpath](#) - Portland, OR