



FOOD TECH CONNECT

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

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FEATURED

[KFC Develops Lab-Grown Chicken, 16K Restaurants Have Closed Due To Covid + More](#)

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

[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

[Investments in Bioproducts Surge As Geltor Nabs New Money](#) - *TechCrunch*

The manufacturer of vegan collagen has raised \$90m from an undisclosed investor. The company aims to make animal-derived proteins used in cosmetics and food products cheaply, efficiently and animal-free.

[Venture Investors Double Their Bets on Faux Meat Startups](#) - *Bloomberg*

More than 20 faux meat startups raised about \$1.4b from venture investors in the first seven months of 2020 with the hopes of finding the next Beyond Meat.

[40% of Leading Food Firms, Including Kroger, Tesco, Nestle and Unilever, Now Have Dedicated Teams for Plant-Based Products](#) - *FAIRR*

Two in five global food giants with a combined \$459b now have dedicated teams to develop and sell plant-based alternatives to meat and dairy, with Tesco and Unilever ranked top.

[Covid-19 Cases Appear to Be Slowing at Meat Plants. But Companies Aren't Releasing Test Results.](#) - *The Fern*

Since the pandemic began, FERN has counted over 37k cases and 168 deaths among meatpacking workers. But of the nearly 200 meatpacking plant outbreaks FERN has mapped since April, just four were added since July 7.

[Black Businesses Need More Than Retail Activism to Survive](#) - *Bloomberg*

Buoyed by the "Buy Black" movement, entrepreneurs say they need capital and financial advising to keep the momentum going.

[Vegan Impossible Burger Now at Trader Joe's](#) - *Live Kindly*

The plant-based burger is now available at 503 Trader Joe's stores across the US.

[Ocean Plastic Is Getting Worse and Efforts to Stem the Tide Fall Short](#) - *Wall Street Journal*

The annual leakage of plastic into the world's oceans could nearly triple from 2016 to 2040 and countermeasures pledged by governments and companies would do little to stem the tide.

[That Flour You Bought Could Be the Future of the US Economy](#) - *New York Times*

Keep baking bread. Small grain companies may suggest a better path for American business.

[A Tesla Designer Reengineers the Chocolate Chip](#) - *Bloomberg*

At Dandelion Chocolate, the faceted chips are designed for maximum texture.

[Beef Packers' Profit Margins Reached Historic Levels During the Height of Covid-19 Plant Shutdowns](#) - *The Counter*

Between April and May, producers saw their cattle prices plummet. Meanwhile beef prices at the grocery store nearly doubled.

[Meatpacking Workers File Lawsuit Against OSHA, Accusing Agency of Failing to Keep Them Safe](#) - *The Washington Post*

The lawsuit accuses OSHA of leaving the workers in imminent danger at the factory where

they work, run by Maid-Rite Specialty Foods in Pennsylvania, in the midst of the coronavirus pandemic.

[US Meat Packers Don't Have Many Answers for Lack of Distancing](#) - *Bloomberg*

As part of an investigation into the spread of coronavirus at US meat plants, Senators Elizabeth Warren and Cory Booker released responses from major producers that defended their operations during the pandemic.



RESTAURANTS

[James Beard Employees Demand More Diversity in Leadership, Salary Transparency in Internal Letter](#) - *Eater*

Among other demands, the letter calls to diversify the board of trustees, and make events more equitable.

[Hong Kong Bans Restaurant Dining As It Battles New Wave of Coronavirus](#) - *Reuters*

Hong Kong banned gatherings of more than two people on Monday, closed down restaurant dining and introduced mandatory face masks in public places, including outdoors.

[Coronavirus Exacerbates Racial Wage Gap for Tipped Workers](#) - *Restaurant Dive*

Black female tipped workers make almost \$5 less than white men tipped workers in the US, and this wage gap grows to nearly \$8 in New York – a 60% difference, compared to the rest of the nation.

[Beyond Moldy Jam: The Inside Story of What Went Wrong at Sqirl](#) - *theLAand*

Over the past two-and-a-half months, we interviewed 21 former and current Sqirl employees, many of whom alleged unsafe working conditions, unsanitary food-handling practices, and recipes not properly credited to their creators.

[Preeti Mistry Goes From Table to Farm](#) - *Eater*

The Juhu Beach Club chef talks about what they hope will be their next big project: a farm restaurant centered on people of color and non-European cuisines.

[Chipotle Mexican Grill to 'Experiment' with Raising Menu Prices on Third-Party Delivery Apps](#) - *Nation's Restaurant News*

The chain hopes to offset profit-hurting commission fees during the pandemic.

[105 New York Restaurants and Bars Cited For Social-Distancing Violations Over the Weekend](#) - *Eater*

Punishments vary, but bars can face up to \$10,000 in fines in violations, or in the most egregious instances, see their liquor licenses suspended.



RETAIL

[Instacart Denies Security Breach of Customer Data](#) - *Grocery Dive*

BuzzFeed News reported that Instacart shoppers' personal information are being sold on the dark web. Instacart denied awareness of a data breach.

[Cruise Robot Cars Deliver Food to Needy. Are They a Pretext to Resume Testing?](#) - *SF Chronicle*

Cruise, the self-driving startup backed by GM, has called test drivers back to work to resume what it says are "full operations," in apparent defiance of pandemic health orders.

[ShopRite Pilots Salad-Making Robot Sally](#) - *Grocery Dive*

Sally gives customers a contactless alternative to the self-service salad bars.

[Black Girls in Trader Joe's' Is Shedding Light on Food's Inequality Problem](#) - *Vice*

Amid the chaos of a global pandemic and civil unrest, the viral Instagram page provides a space for Black women to find solace in food.



AGRICULTURE

[The Great Climate Migration Has Begun](#) - *New York Times*

Today, 1% of the world is a barely livable hot zone. By 2070, that portion could go up to 19%. An estimated 50m to 300m people will be displaced as a result.

[Agroforestry Is Both Climate Friendly and Profitable](#) - *Civil Eats*

Incorporating trees into farmland benefits everything from soil health to crop production to the climate. Investors say it might also yields profits.

[7 Ways the Trump Administration Has Deregulated the Food System During the Covid-19 Pandemic](#) - *The Counter*

Chickens processed at unsafe speeds, fishing in protected waters, and fewer protections for workers: Experts say the pandemic has made our food system significantly more dangerous.

[Advocates Push for More Farmworker Protections As Coronavirus Cases Surge](#) - *CNBC*

Farmworkers across the country are contracting Covid-19, and labor advocates say that their employers are not doing enough to keep them safe. Some farms are also refusing to give workers the required sick pay.

[Should Regen Ag Include Gene Editing? AFN Readers Respond](#) - *AgFunder*

Some view regenerative agriculture as a return to simpler practices grounded in a holistic view of nature while others simply fear that biotechnology brings more problems than benefits to the table.

[Campbell's Soup Sells Acre VP Agrifoodtech Fund to StepStone](#) - *AgFunder*

Campbell's Soup has sold its stake in Acre Venture Partners Fund I to StepStone. Campbell's was the sole LP in the agrifoodtech fund, which includes investments in Farmers Business Network, Spoiler Alert, ImpactVision and Evolve Biosystems.

[Black Farmers Look to Regain Their Land](#) - *Modern Farmer*

A new generation of Black farmers is looking to regain the land that was stripped from their grandparents in Mississippi. They are looking to fundraise \$125k to buy 20 acres that belonged to a recently deceased Black grower in their community.

[Decarbonising Fashion Is Imperative. Here's Why.](#) - *Vogue*

The fashion industry currently contributes up to 10% of global carbon emissions, and big brands can't pay the problem to go away. Brands like Allbirds, Burberry and Sheep Inc are implementing regenerative ag practices.

[Vertical Farms Fill a Tall Order](#) - *Wall Street Journal*

Indoor crops grown by high-tech methods are on the rise as the Covid-19 pandemic spurs interest in food security for cities.

[How This NY Island Went From Tourist Hot Spot to Emergency Garden](#) - *New York Times*

Governors Island had a charming teaching farm that was a field trip destination. Now it's producing hundreds of pounds of fresh produce every week.



EATERS

[In the Plantations There Is Hunger and Loneliness': The Cultural Dimensions of Food Insecurity in Papua](#) - *Mongabay*

As palm oil companies take over their land, the Marind are struggling to feed themselves. Deforestation, driven by plantation companies, has brought both hunger and loss of traditional foods.

[College Food Pantries Are Reinventing Ways to Feed Students](#) - *Civil Eats*

As universities closed nationwide, many food-insecure students fell through the cracks. Staff and administrators are working to ensure they get fed.

[UK Plans to Fight Obesity with Ad Bans, More Calorie Labels](#) - *Bloomberg*

The UK imposed strict new limits on junk food advertising as ministers seek to control the country's growing obesity problem, which has also been identified as a factor in coronavirus deaths.

[Canada: This New Designer Furniture Is Vegan and Made from Apple Peels](#) - *VegNews*

Gus Modern manufactured a material from the byproducts of the apple juice industry to create a durable leather that mimics its animal skin-derived counterpart.