



# 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

[Just Eat Acquires Grubhub for \\$7.3B, Bon Appétit EIC & Head of Video Resign Over Racism Allegations + More](#)

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

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## CPG

### [More Food Shortages Loom with Outbreaks at 60 US Plants](#) - *Bloomberg*

Yakima, Washington, a hub of agricultural activity, has the highest per capita rate on the West Coast. More than 1k workers got sick, and those who went on strike for safety demands died from the virus.

### [MycoTechnology Raises \\$39M in Series D to Expand Functional Ingredients Platform](#) - *Food Navigator*

The funding was co-led by Greenleaf Foods, SPC, S2G Ventures and Evolution Partners with participation from Tyson Ventures, Kellogg's eighteen94 Capital and others.

### [Take a Look at How Covid-19 Is Changing Meatpacking Plants](#) - *New York Times*

See how workers stand shoulder to shoulder to provide Americans with affordable meat. As plants reopen, the coronavirus remains a threat.

### [Tofu Goes Mainstream Thanks to Big Meat's Covid Crisis](#) - *Bloomberg*

Sales of the once-niche soybean product jumped as consumers navigated poorly stocked meat aisles. Producers hope they'll stick around.

### [Direct-to-Consumer Startup Studio Innovation Department Raises \\$3.7M](#) - *TechCrunch*

The funding comes from Long Light Capital, Synergis Capital, Ambridge Capital and others. The startup has launched its customized nutritional supplements, WellPath, with plans to launch a pet wellness brand called Finn next month.

### [Tyson Foods Cooperating in US Probe of Chicken Price-Fixing](#) - *Wall Street Journal*

The leading US chicken producer said it is aiding in a Justice Department price-fixing investigation under a leniency program that would allow the company to avoid criminal prosecution.

### [Switzerland: Nestle Has New Refill Stations to Help Shoppers Ditch Single-Use Packaging](#) - *Fast Company*

At some stores in Switzerland, it's now possible to buy Purina cat food and Nescafé coffee from new refill stations instead of in single-use packaging.



## RESTAURANTS

[Just Eat Takeaway Confirms It's Gobbling Up Grubhub in a \\$7.3B Deal](#) - *TechCrunch*

The Dutch food delivery company beat out Uber to buy Grubhub, whose chief executive will oversee operations in North America. The combined operation will have over 70m combined active customers globally.

[Restaurants Must Use This Moment to Change, Too](#) - *Eater*

Dismantling racist and classist ideologies is not just about police reform; restaurants need to answer the call of protesters, too. This is how.

[Food Brands Tweet #BlackLivesMatter, but What's Behind the Words?](#) - *New York Times*

In addition to declaring solidarity, the fast food industry could make changes to protect the health and safety of black employees.

[After a Yearslong Battle, NYPD Will Finally Stop Policing Street Food Vendors](#) - *Eater*

Mayor Bill de Blasio announced Sunday that the NYPD would stop issuing tickets to vendors and would no longer oversee enforcement of vendors.



[Endangered Restaurants Say \\$120B Aid Would Pay for Itself](#) - *Bloomberg*

A trade group for independent US restaurants said that its proposal for an industry stabilization fund would pay for itself more than twice over through generating more than \$270b in economic activity.

[As Diners Flock to Delivery Apps, Restaurants Fear for Their Future](#) - *New York Times*

While the apps say they are saving them in the pandemic, many restaurateurs say the opposite.

[Uber Eats Delivery Fees Cancelled for Black-Owned Restaurants](#) - *Forbes*

Diners in major US and Canadian cities can now order from Black-owned restaurants delivery fee free through the end of 2020. How likely are these changes actually going to support Black-owned restaurants?

[A Juneteenth of Joy and Resistance](#) - *New York Times*

With the dual pressures of unrest and the pandemic, black chefs are contemplating the ways this holiday can help Americans cope. Widely considered to be African-Americans' independence day, Juneteenth is a time to share verdant family memories and indulge in the season's bounty.

[Lists of Black-Owned Restaurants Are a Start, but They're Obviously Not Enough](#) - *Eater*

Spending money at black-owned restaurants is a direct way to effect change under capitalism. But reading a list is the lowest bar to clear when it comes to engagement with black-owned restaurants.

[Restaurants Parse Extensive and Conflicting Guidance As They Reopen](#) - *Wall Street Journal*

Big restaurant companies with eateries in a number of states are struggling to navigate a thicket of rules as they seek to reopen dining rooms closed by the coronavirus pandemic.

[Where Are All the Black Restaurant Critics?](#) - *Grubstreet*

Black points of view are common in film, music, fashion, literature and politics, yet the slice of the journalism world that covers food, chefs, and restaurants as pop culture remains deeply un-integrated.

[What Happens When a Brown Chef Cooks White Food?](#) - *GQ*

There's a path for chefs in America: Cook at high-end restaurants, prove your chops and open a place that reflects your experience. But for non-white chefs, the expectations are different. Even if you've been trained in classic French cooking, your restaurant has to be a reflection of

how you look.

[Bars Must Change for Good After Coronavirus](#) - *Food & Wine*

As thousands of bars remain closed across the country, new patterns of serving and enjoying drinks are emerging. Here's how America's grandest social tradition could change forever.

[Former Wall Street Trader's Meal Service Delivers Social Justice](#) - *Bloomberg*

Sam Polk of Everytable sees parallels between the 2008 financial crash and the current pandemic.

[What 'Reopened' Restaurants Look Like in 17 Cities Worldwide](#) - *Eater*

Views of the world as we edge ever closer to once again sharing a great meal, a stiff drink, and everyday life together.



## RETAIL

[Starbucks to Close 400 Stores, Speed Expansion of Pickup Locations, Curbside and](#)

[More](#) - *TechCrunch*

The coffee chain will expedite the rollout of its new “Pickup” store concept, powered by mobile ordering, in response to the coronavirus pandemic. It will also expand access to curbside pickup, drive-thru and walk-up counters in less dense, suburban markets.

[What Happened to Covid-19 Hazard Pay? Walmart, Kroger and Others Called Out in New Report](#) - *Fast Company*

Twelve percent of companies gave their workers this extra bit of cash for working on the frontlines during the height of spread of Covid-19. Since then, four of the biggest employers—Walmart, Kroger, Lowe’s, and Costco—have stopped doing so.

[Instacart Claims More Than Half of Online Grocery Market](#) - *Grocery Dive*

Instacart’s share of the online grocery market reached a high of 57% in April. The growth puts it ahead of Walmart, which saw its market share drop 25% in March.

[HelloFresh Expands into Denmark As Analysts Predict 'Sticky but Niche' Post-Covid Meal Kit Demand](#) - *Food Navigator*

The company, which operates in much of Europe, Canada and US, said that following a successful launch in Sweden last year, it has decided to further expand its business in the Nordics.

[Here's What's Getting More Expensive – and Cheaper – at the Grocery Store](#) - *CNN*

While meat and vegetable prices got more expensive, shelf-stable products and egg prices got cheaper.



## AGRICULTURE

[In Apparent Rejection of Federal Court, EPA Allows Continued Dicamba Use](#) - *The Counter*

A federal court ruling banned the controversial herbicide last week, but Trump's EPA is pushing back. The administration announced that farmers will be able to continue to spray dicamba through July 31.

[Temasek Leads \\$46M Series B for Ascus Bio's Microbe-Based Animal Feed](#)

[Additives](#) - *AgFunder*

The new capital will be used to help the company expand its customer sales and service teams, advance new products in the pipeline and refine its tech platform and IP foundation.

[Farmers Groups Fear Coronavirus Aid Won't Reach Hardest Hit Farmers](#) - *Modern Farmer*

Farming organizations say farmers of color and small growers will likely fall through the cracks.

[Singapore Offers \\$206M Covid-19 Boost for Startups That "Contribute to National](#)

[Priorities](#)" - *AgFunder*

Covid-19 has accelerated the country's efforts to enhance food security, so agrifoodtech



startups are among those that could benefit most from the new fund.

[Reckoning with Racial Justice in Farm Country](#) - *Civil Eats*

Rural areas are divided over George Floyd's death and the resulting protests. As some stay silent, others are hold rallies in support.

[Farm Tech Market Map: Why It's Time to Distinguish Farm Tech from the Messy Supply Chain](#) - *AgFunder*

This new farm tech market map recognizes the continued expansion of the agtech industry each year, and the need to split out farm tech from the messy middle.

[How Food Hubs and Co-Ops Are Overcoming the USDA Farm Box Program's Flaws](#) - *Civil Eats*

Despite a botched launch and execution, some small distributors are making big strides in supporting small farms and feeding hungry people.

[Andes Ag Is Integrating Seeds with Beneficial Microbes to Combat Inherent Delivery Challenges for Biologics](#) - *AgFunder*

The startup closed a \$3m round led by KdT Ventures and Endurance VC. It claims to have developed the first agricultural seed that is integrated with beneficial microbes. New funding will be used to expand trials throughout the Midwest as well as supporting a 2021 product launch.

['Fertile Ground' Explores How Jackson, Mississippi, Is Charting a Better Food Future](#) - *Civil Eats*

The new documentary—and a city-wide public art project—addresses redlining, income inequality, and structural racism through the lens of food.

[Feeding an Indigenous Community and Rematriating Seeds in Minneapolis](#) - *Civil Eats*

The nonprofit Dream of Wild Health grows food to fight insecurity and creates food sovereignty for Native Americans hit hard by the pandemic and ongoing racial justice protests.



## EATERS

[Bon Appétit's Editor in Chief Just Resigned – but Staffers of Color Say There's a 'Toxic' Culture of Microaggressions and Exclusion That Runs Far Deeper Than One Man](#) - *Business Insider*

We spoke with 14 former and current Bon Appétit staffers and contributors about their experiences at both the magazine and its beloved Test Kitchen.

[Bon Appétit's Test Kitchen Stars Are Demanding Equal Pay](#) - *Grubstreet*

Sohla El-Waylly, who was the first to call for Rapoport's resignation, raised issues of unequal pay for workers of color in test kitchen videos. Her colleagues said they would not appear in videos until compensation issues were addressed.

[Condé Nast's Head of Video Resigns](#) - *New York Times*

Matt Duckor, who led the publisher's programming efforts, resigned after accusations of bias. He leaves the company shortly after the sudden departure of Adam Rapoport as Bon Appétit's editor.

[We Gon' Eat Well and Cook Great: Shifting Food Equity](#) - *Food Made Simple*

With greater awareness and more civic engagement, we can tackle food injustice that has plagued America since before its founding and march toward more equitable eating future for all.

[Bon Appétit Names Amanda Shapiro as Interim Editor](#) - *New York Times*

After the resignation of Adam Rapoport, who headed the magazine for nearly 10 years, the staff is seeking a wider reckoning.

[Ireland: Dublin Startup Drop Raises €12M to Become 'Android of Kitchen Supplies'](#) - *Independent.ie*

Alpha Edison and Morpheus Ventures led the round. While the company started out with a smart weighing scales that connected to an iPad, it now wants to become a digital platform that all kitchen appliances connect to.

[The Vegan Race Wars: How the Mainstream Ignores Vegans of Color](#) - *Thrillist*

Mainstream veganism, also known as "white veganism," tends to overlook vegans of color by excluding them from the dominant discourse. The result is two very distinct and separate vegan cultures often at odds with each other.

[Forty Percent of Americans Have Taken "Extremely Unsafe" Measures to Sanitize Their Food and Kitchens](#) - *The Counter*

A CDC report finds that one in five people have tried to wash produce with bleach, and a similar number have applied cleaning products to their skin. In other words: We're getting sick by trying not to get sick.

[How to Feed Crowds in a Protest or Pandemic? The Sikhs Know](#) - *New York Times*

Their centuries-old faith tradition of nourishing anyone in need has found new energy and purpose in America's turmoil.

[Coronavirus Changed 85% of Consumers' Food Habits](#) - *Food Dive*

The International Food Information Council's annual Food & Health Survey found people still trust the safety of the food system and are turning more to plant protein for health.

## **COVID-19 RESOURCES + ACTION**

- **Resources:** We have compiled a database of resources for those in the food industry impacted by the pandemic [here](#). Please add your own resources.
- **Jobs:** We need to band together to support everyone across the food system who has lost their job due to the pandemic. Use code "coronavirusfoodjobs" to post remote or remote-friendly food jobs on our [job board](#) for free.