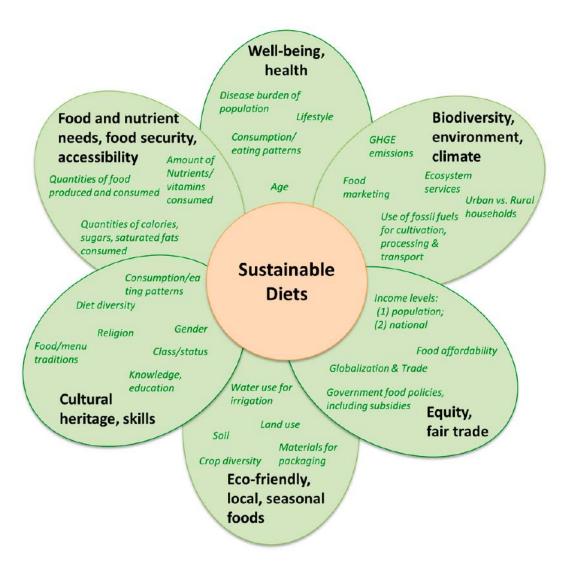


Decision-Making Under Uncertainty: Sustainable Diets and Conditions of Scarcity or Abundance

Parke Wilde
Sustainable Diets, Food, and Nutrition: A Food Forum Workshop
National Academies
Washington, DC
August 1, 2018

Sustainable diets are multi-sectoral.

- Public health nutrition
- Environment & climate change
- Food consumers
- Supply chains and food waste
- Farmers and food producers
- Poverty reduction



Source: Johnston, Fanzo, Cogill, 2014; Lairon, 2012.

Sustainable diets are contentious.

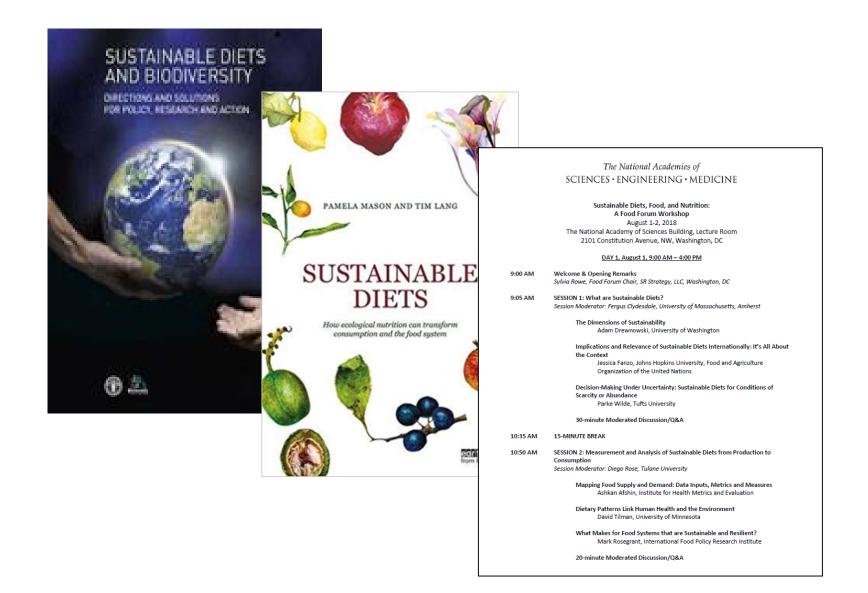
- Dietary guidelines
- Food labeling rules
- Carbon taxes
- Farm subsidies
- New agricultural technologies
- Agricultural conservation
- Water allocation

Sustainable diets are contentious.

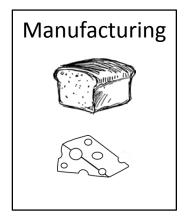
- Dietary guidelines
- Food labeling rules
- Carbon taxes
- Farm subsidies
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How can these sectors talk to each other?

1. Workshops and documents.



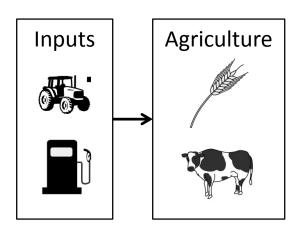
2. Food labels such as eco-labels.

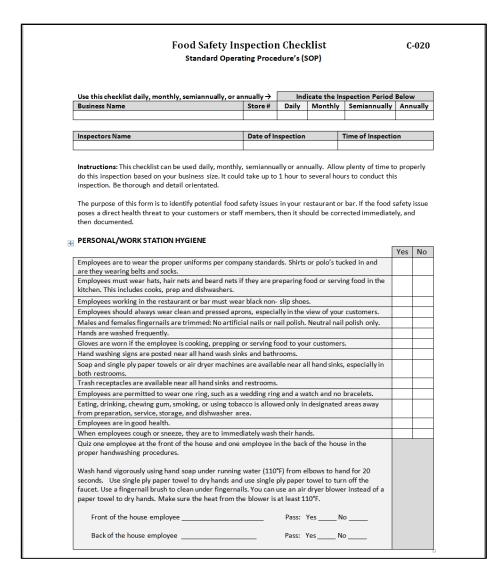






3. Checklists for production standards.

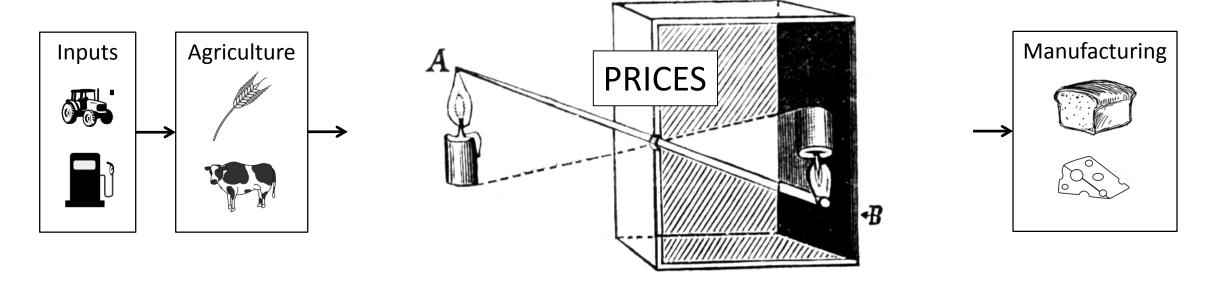






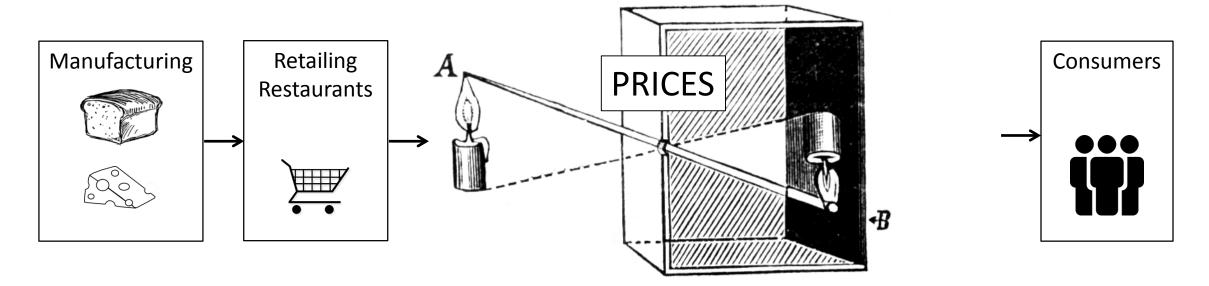
4. Prices.

4. Prices.



Source: Wikimedia commons.

4. Prices.



Source: Wikimedia commons.

What do prices reveal about sustainable diets?

- How much healthy food costs for consumers
- Revenue for farm owners and operators
- Wages for farm laborers
- Global scarcity and abundance

The price context affects sustainable diets.

	With High Food Prices	With Low Food Prices
Affordable food for consumers.		Good
Politics of land conservation.		Good

The price context affects sustainable diets.

	With High Food Prices	With Low Food Prices
Affordable food for consumers.		Good
Politics of land conservation.		Good
Livelihoods for farmers.	Good	
Incentive to reduce food waste.	Good	
Investments in alternatives to meat.	Good	

Farm labor, competition, and tomato prices

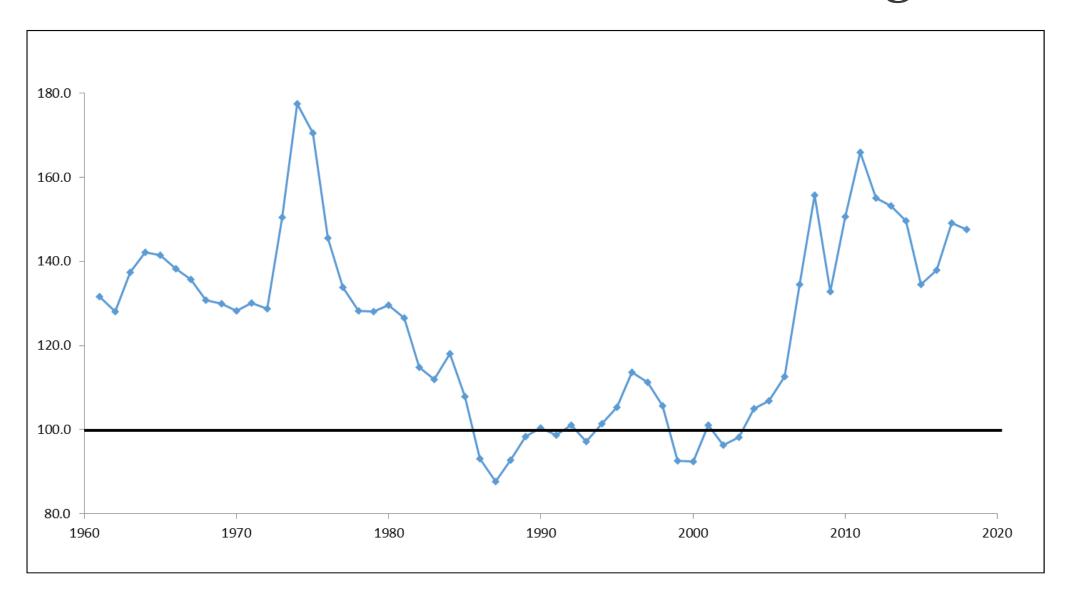


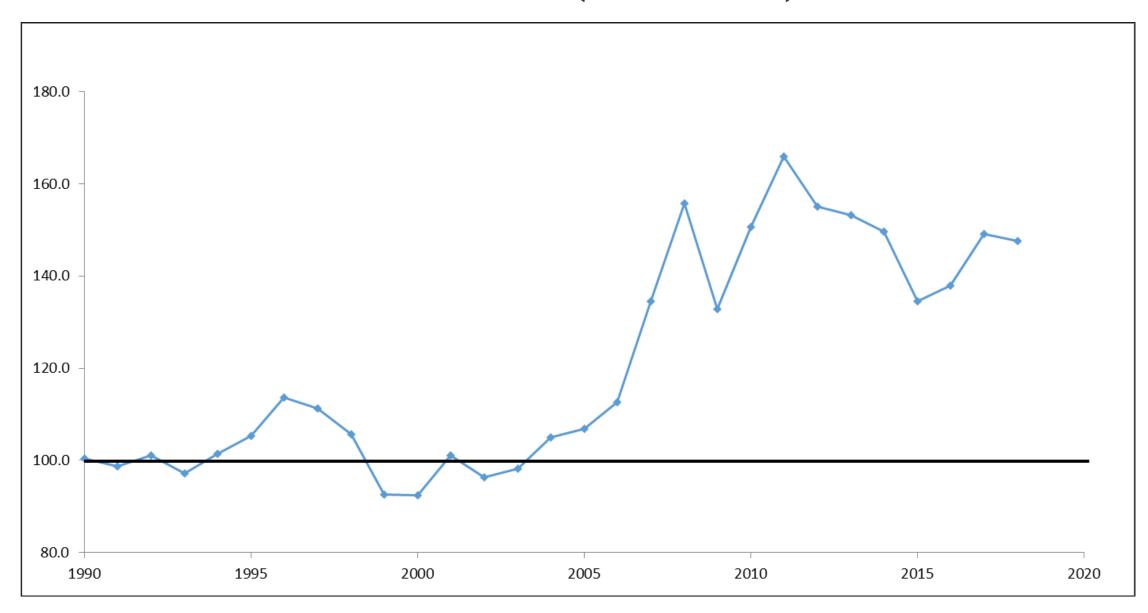
Wilde, 2018.

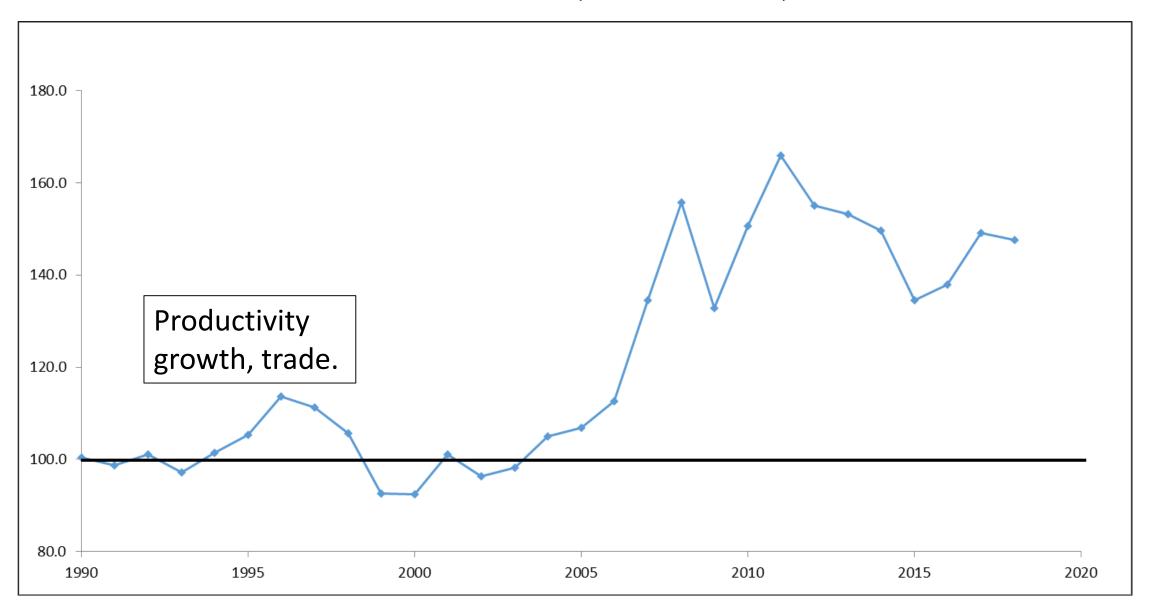
Coalition of Immokalee Workers (March, 2018)

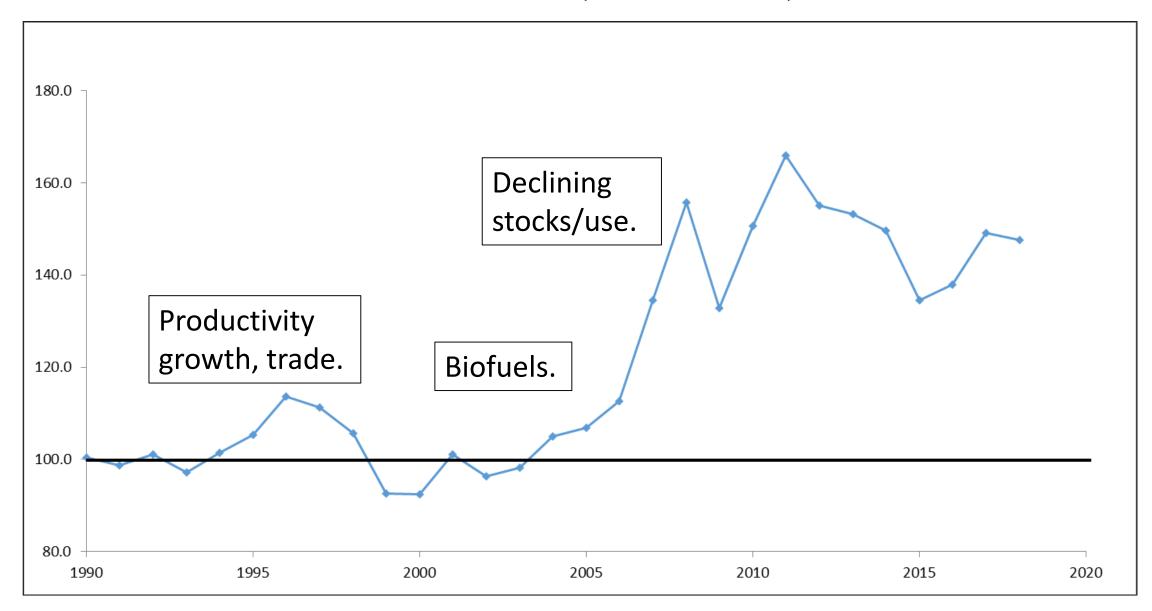
What is the **history** of food prices?

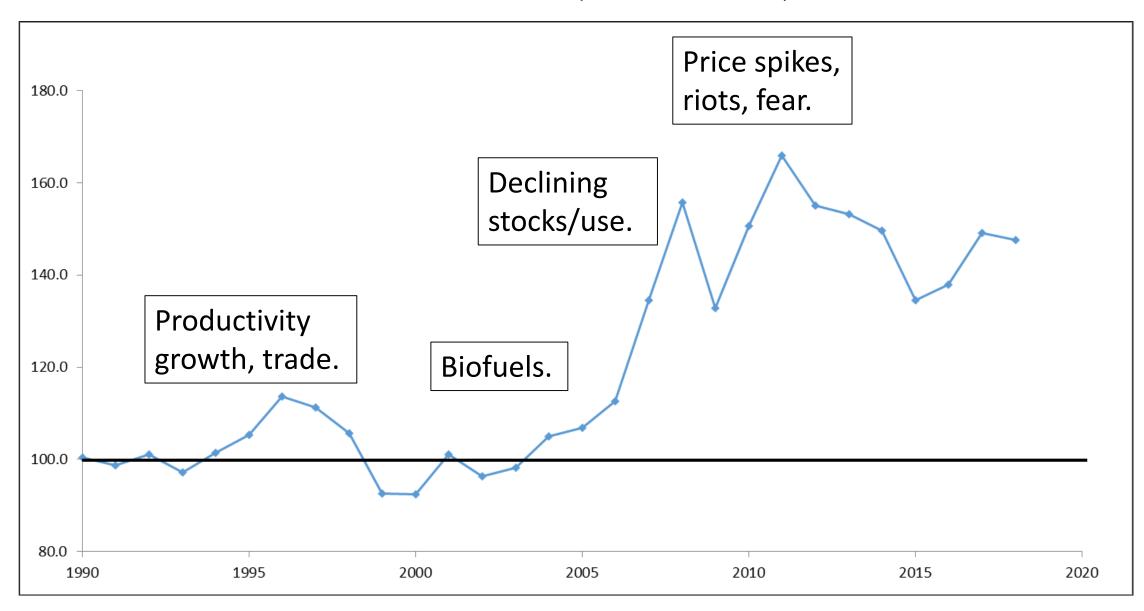
FAO Food Price Index (Deflated). Long-term.

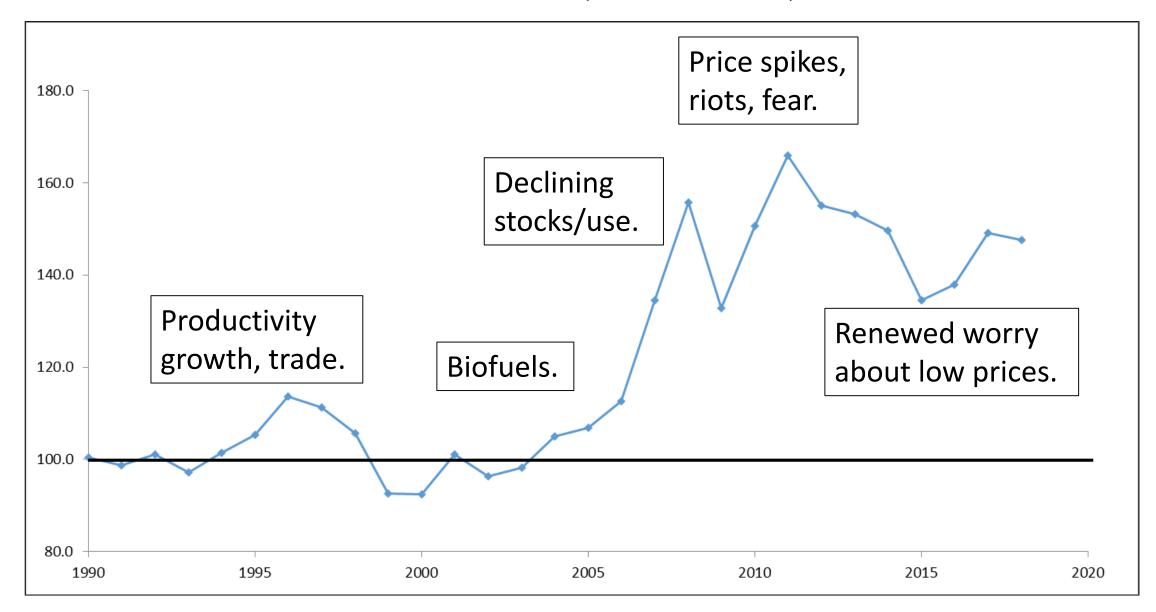




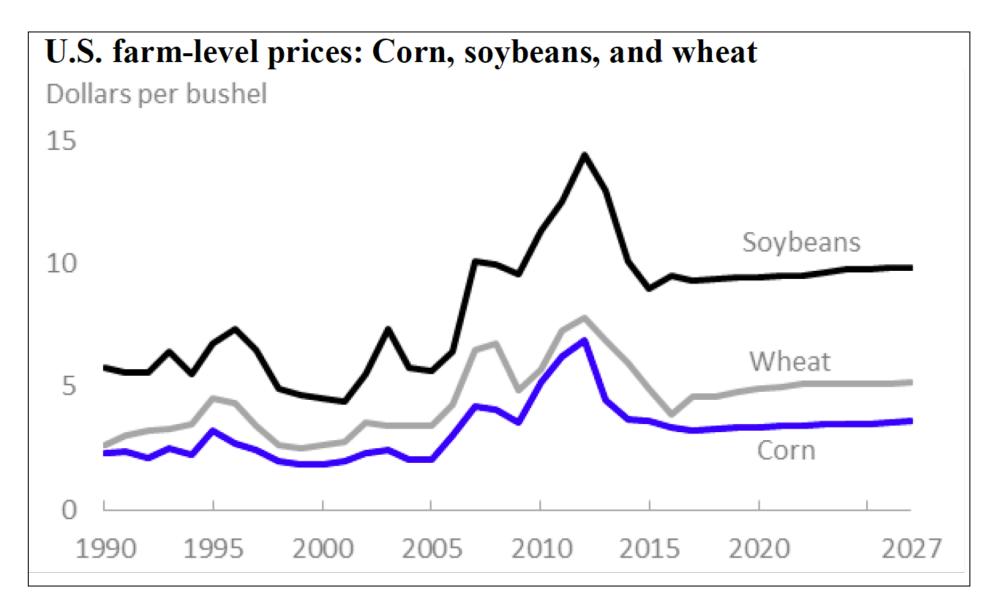




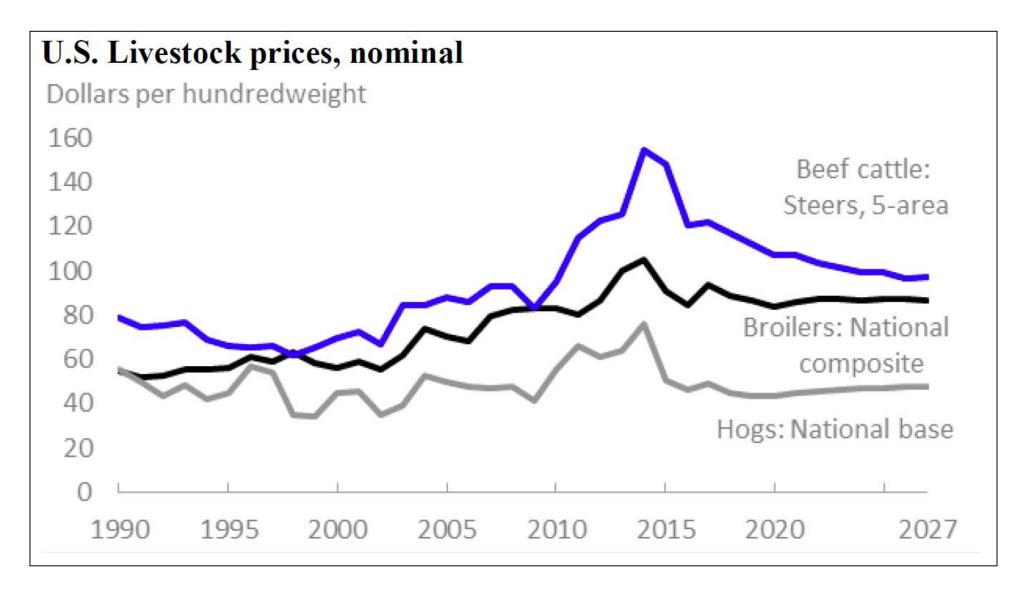




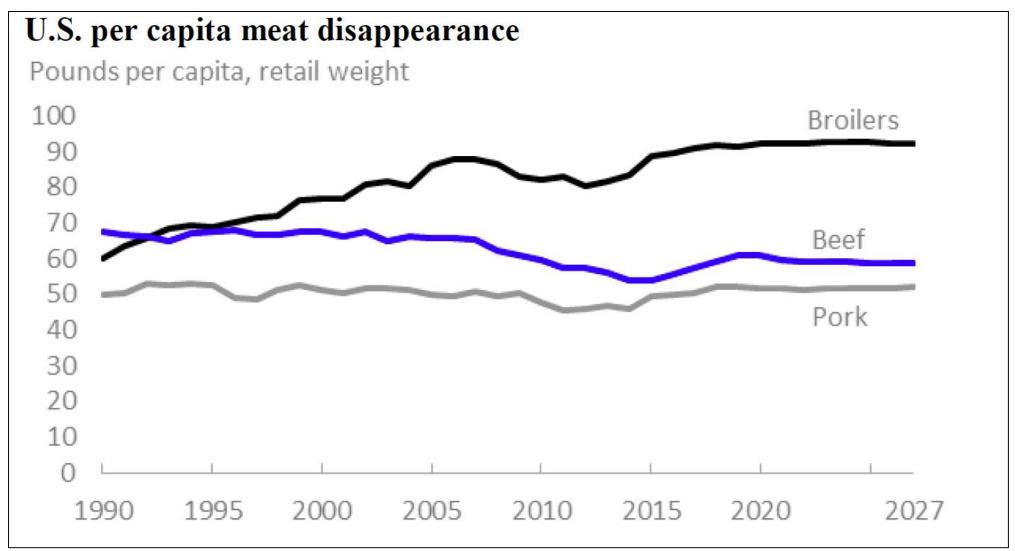
What is the **future trajectory** of food prices?



Source: USDA, 2018.



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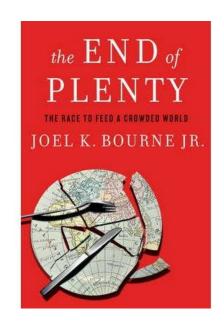


Source: USDA, 2018.

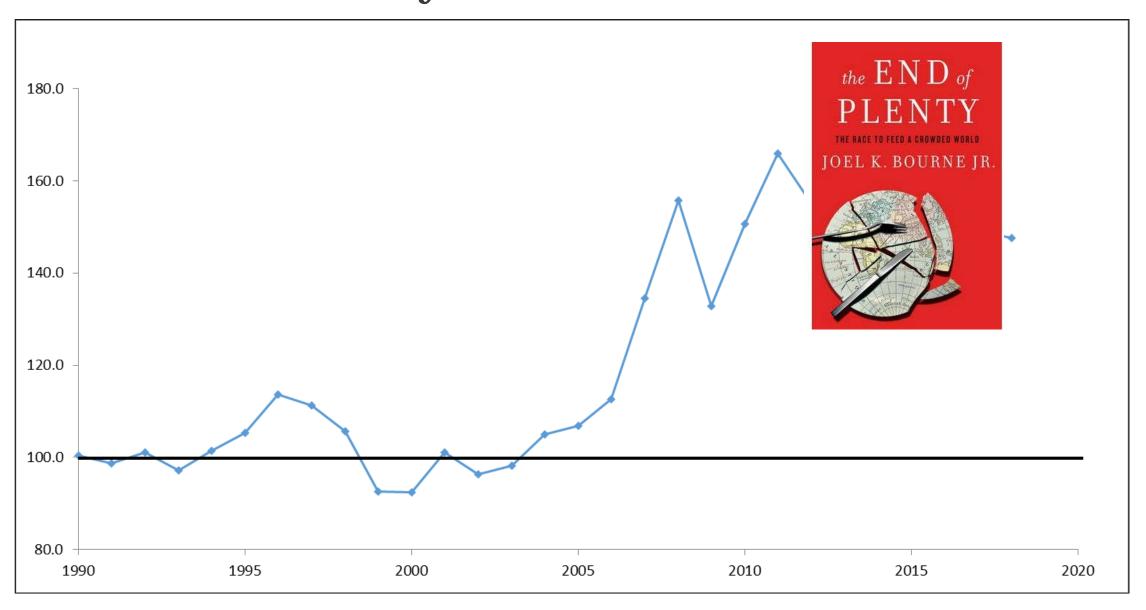
Assumptions

- Economic growth: 2.1% (U.S.), 3.7%-4.6% (developing)
- Population growth: <1% (global), 1.1% (developing)
- Energy prices: \$80/barrel
- Agricultural policy: not much changed, but payments rise
- Biofuels: rising first then falling
- Trade: current agreements stay in place
- Climate change: no mention of "climate," "warming."

The End of Plenty (Joel Bourne, Jr., 2015)



The End of Plenty (Joel Bourne, Jr., 2015)



Sustainable Diets: Food Prices and Resilience

- Focus on the fundamental goals:
 - Environmental quality
 - Healthy eating
 - Thriving economy
 - Low hunger and poverty
- Let prices be prices.
- Pursue a sustainable diets strategy that is braced for conditions of both scarcity and abundance.