

Definitions:

Food Security is defined by the Life Sciences Research Office (LSRO) as, " ...



Beams and floorboards leaning together, grown tired  
of waiting for their load to lift.

II

These farms have heavy stones,  
each one wrestled from the earth  
carefully placed by calloused hands  
into a wall on field's edge.

Built over many years  
the wall begins to crumble,  
one memory at a time  
rolling back to be swallowed  
again by the ground.

These farms have old trees.  
Oaks and Maples with thick skins,  
guarding the secrets of many seasons.  
Old trees who thirsted in dry summers,  
cracked and groaned on winter nights,  
and whispered on August breezes to women  
trimming Blue Lake beans in the shade.

These farms have buttercups and daisies  
in a field gone to seed.  
Other flowers I can't even name,  
never learned to name, now  
their fragile beauty is precious.

Up and down the road For Sale signs sprout,  
symptoms of the approaching tumor.  
A horse farm, pasture, a stand of birch trees,  
divided, sub-divided, priced, sectioned off  
and parceled out.

Wild flowers sway peacefully.  
A soft breeze rustling in the long grass,  
right before the end.

What is the author saying?

Is it true?

What impact does this change in farms have on our food and how it is produced?

How do these impacts affect the world around us?

<http://www.foodshed.net/foodguide/0809lfg.pdf> - West Michigan guide to local food

After viewing the many sources of local food in the Grand Rapids area, are you challenged to eat more locally?

How can you change your eating habits to eat more locally?

What Now: Resources for Further Engagement

<http://accessofwestmichigan.org/> - Access of West Michigan website

A local ministry providing food for those in need

Provides information about their mission as well as opportunities to get involved

<http://www.calvin.edu/admin/slc/> - Calvin College Service-Learning Center

We can help you get connected and volunteer with local agencies working to bring justice to our food systems

<http://roadmap.cultureisnotoptional.com/food/> - \*culture is not optional

Information on the \*cino publication all about food

Publication provides information and resources about eating locally, the roles food plays in our society, as well as a Christian perspective on food

<http://www.feedingamericawestmichigan.org/> - Feeding America website

Testimonials from those who have been helped by places like Feeding America as well as information on ways you can get involved.

<http://foodshed.net/> - Greater Grand Rapids Food Systems Council

Information about food systems in the Grand Rapids area and how to find local food

If you have any suggestions or comments on what we can improve, please contact us at [slc@calvin.edu](mailto:slc@calvin.edu) or 616-526-6455.

