Subject guide: Food and Agricultural Issues

Food and plant issues are all over the news today. Monoculture, Genetically modified plants, and Local food proponents (Locovores), are all health and social issues in our culture. The following guide will help steer you to some good sources for your research.

Using Cuesta’s databases:

Go to Cuesta’s databases first, since the information is evaluated and can be trusted.

*SIRS:* ([http://library.cuesta.edu/magazine.htm](http://library.cuesta.edu/magazine.htm)) This is a Social Issues database useful for this assignment because of its pro/con format. Choosing any of the following topics from the Leading Issues list on the Search page will give you an overview of the subject, some opposing viewpoint articles, and a long list of full text articles.

- Factory farms
- Local food movement
- Genetically modified foods

*EBSCOhost:* ([http://library.cuesta.edu/magazine.htm](http://library.cuesta.edu/magazine.htm)) is a general article database. Try different keyword searches. Always select full text. Some keyword phrases to try:

- Sustainable agriculture
- "genetically modified food"
- Biologically engineered food

*ProQuest National Newspaper Core:* ([http://library.cuesta.edu/newspaper.htm](http://library.cuesta.edu/newspaper.htm)) indexes 5 major national newspapers. Use this database for very current newspaper coverage. Try the keywords listed above for *EBSCO* and *SIRS*. You can also find editorials and opinion pieces from major newspapers in this database.

For local news articles add the *NewsBank* ([http://library.cuesta.edu/newspaper.htm](http://library.cuesta.edu/newspaper.htm)) database, which indexes the *SLO Tribune*, as well as other major California papers. You will be able to access editorials, opinion pieces, and full text articles on your subject.
Finding books and eBooks

**EBSCOhost eBooks:** [http://web.ebscohost.com/ehost/search/basic?sid=532138dd-d7bc-4acb-9ec7-31be98ec25f1@sessionmgr11&vid=1&tid=2003EB](http://web.ebscohost.com/ehost/search/basic?sid=532138dd-d7bc-4acb-9ec7-31be98ec25f1@sessionmgr11&vid=1&tid=2003EB) Cuesta has 13,000 online full text books. They can be accessed from the **eLibrary** book catalog or separately from the link above.

Some useful examples:

Wright, Wynne. *The fight over food [electronic resource]: producers, consumers, and activists challenge the global food system.* ONLINE

Ikerd, John E. *Crisis & opportunity [electronic resource]: sustainability in American agriculture.* ONLINE

Atkinson, Giles, *Handbook of sustainable development [electronic resource].* ONLINE

**eLibrary** [http://webcat.cuesta.edu](http://webcat.cuesta.edu) is Cuesta’s book and eBook catalog. Some keywords to use when searching for books:

- genetically modified food
- sustainable agriculture
- local agriculture
- food opposing viewpoints

A few useful titles:

*Food, Inc.: how industrial food is making us sicker, fatter and poorer -- and what you can do about it 1st ed.* Weber, Karl, 1953- Call number HD9005 .F6582 2009 (Reserve)


*Food, inc.: Mendel to Monsanto--the promises and perils of the biotech harvest.* Pringle, Peter. Call number S494.5 .B563 P74 2003

**Full text online articles from trusted Web sites**

These articles represent just a fraction of what is available from reliable Web pages, some of which are listed below.

[http://www.sciencedaily.com/articles/m/monoculture.htm](http://www.sciencedaily.com/articles/m/monoculture.htm) article from Science Daily on monoculture
Internet Sites from trusted sources

http://www.science.gov/  The science portal for the U.S. government with access to full text articles.

http://www.sciencedaily.com/  Science Daily with full text articles and citations.

http://attra.ncat.org  National Sustainable Agriculture Information Service home page

http://www.nal.usda.gov/  the entry point for the National Agricultural Library. It has thousands of links to various agencies with full text articles on every phase of agriculture and food.


http://www.eoearth.org/  the Encyclopedia of Earth, with articles and links to food diversity, etc.

http://www.pbs.org/now/shows/344/locavore.html  a PBS entry on eating locally, with links to first person experiences as a locavore.

http://www.ucsusa.org/food_and_agriculture/science_and_impacts/science/engineered-foods-allowed-on.html  The Union of Concerned Scientists has a partial list of genetically engineered foods and other links.

http://www.urbanfarmhub.org/resources/urban-farming/  This is a hub, or central site, for many incredibly useful links to all facets of urban farming.

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