

INDUSTRIAL FOOD SYSTEM



GROWING

Growers use heavy equipment to prepare soil, and plant and maintain crops on huge farms of single “monocrops.”



HARVESTING

Farm workers gather the ripened crop from the field using large machinery, harvesting great quantities at once.



TRANSPORTING

Transportation workers move the food by air, truck, train, ship, or barge. Transporting may happen at many steps and for very long hauls.



PROCESSING

Food processors use factory equipment to chop, grind, dry, boil, can, or freeze food to preserve it or to make it more convenient. Processed food is often greatly altered from its natural state.



PACKAGING

Workers operate machinery to put food into cans, bags, boxes, or other containers for sale. The packaging protects food and helps sell it.



WHOLESALE

Wholesalers sell and distribute large quantities of foods to stores.



RETAILING

Retailers sell foods to customers, usually in supermarkets, grocery stores, or other stores.



EATING

People buy, prepare, and eat the food.



DISPOSING

People discard leftover food and packaging. While most is recyclable or compostable, much of it ends up in landfills.



LOCAL FOOD SYSTEM

