

Press Release



PRIMER: Agriculture Subsidies and Their Influence on the Composition of U.S. Food Supply and Consumption

PAULINA ENCK | NOVEMBER 3, 2021

The federal government has long subsidized America's farmers, significantly affecting our food supply and what we eat. In a new primer, Director of Human Welfare Policy Tara O'Neill Hayes breaks down the various federal agricultural subsidies for certain crops.

Key points:

- The most highly subsidized crops—corn, soy, wheat, and rice—are the most abundantly produced and most consumed, often in the form of ultra-processed foods.
- Sugar is also highly subsidized in the form of indirect price supports that benefit producers and drive-up prices, yet sugar is also widely overconsumed.
- Fruits and vegetables, on the other hand, receive relatively little subsidization—and Americans eat much less produce than recommended.
- It is critical that both policymakers and the American public understand the influence that federal agricultural subsidies have on our food supply and diet and, in turn, our nutrition and health.

[*Read the analysis*](#)