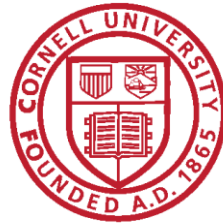


School Dilemma

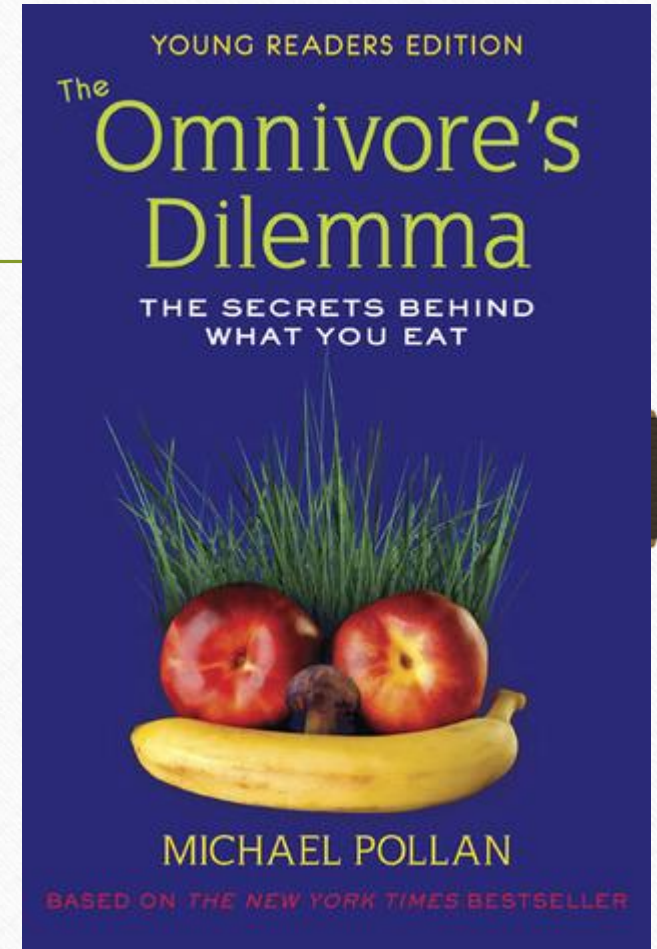
T. Joe Swyers Dairy Farm
Dansville, NY



Cornell University
Cooperative Extension
Livingston County

The Issue

- Daughter is in 8th Grade English
- Omnivore's Dilemma by Michael Pollan
- Common Core Unit: Analyzing Author's Purpose and Evaluating Claims in 'The Omnivore's Dilemma
- English teachers teaching about agriculture
- Student's were analyzing agriculture not the book's author/claims
- Low income community



Contacted the School

- Spoke with teacher
- Principal
- Superintendent
 - Met with him
 - Offered for us to come into the classroom and talk about the of the Omnivore's Dilemma

Reaching Out for Help

- NEDPA
- NY Farm Bureau
- NY Ag in the Classroom
- NY Animal Ag Coalition
- Livingston County Agriculture in the Classroom Program

Created a Survey

Student Concerns & Social Media Use

95% of Students used Social Media

Common Student Concerns:

- Chemicals use in Agriculture
 - Mentioned over 40 times in comments and concerns
- Conventional vs Organic
- Animal Welfare/Treatment
- GMO
- Food Safety/Healthy Food

Student Quotes from Survey

“What questions would you ask a farmer?”

- “Do you ever stop and think, 'I kill animals for a living'?”
- “Could you make it simpler and stop using pesticides and treat the animals better because I support world peace?”
- “Why they use the seed provided by the corn companies, as it may allow for more corn and corn that is resistant to disease and insect if enough farmers stopped using their corn seed they would be forced to shut down. If they shut down that would make it so that the Farmers could get more money for their crops, animals, and farms.”

Student Quotes from Survey

“3 Take-away point from the book”

- “That not all food is safe- Not all food is good for you- Some foods come from a laboratory”
- “The cows live in there own waste”
- “I don’t really like the book because it tells us how the food organization actually is and some of the stuff we find out is really nasty.”
- “All farms aren't happy farms where animals are grazing and eating correctly.”
- “The animals that we obtain our food from are mostly not in suitable conditions.”
- “Many foods are drowned in chemicals.”

Lesson Development

- Developed 2 part lesson
 - Spent 2 days presenting to every 8th grade English Class
 - Lesson addressed their specific concerns
- Students spent 1 day on the farm
 - Meant more for them to actually see it
 - Again had ag professionals address their concerns

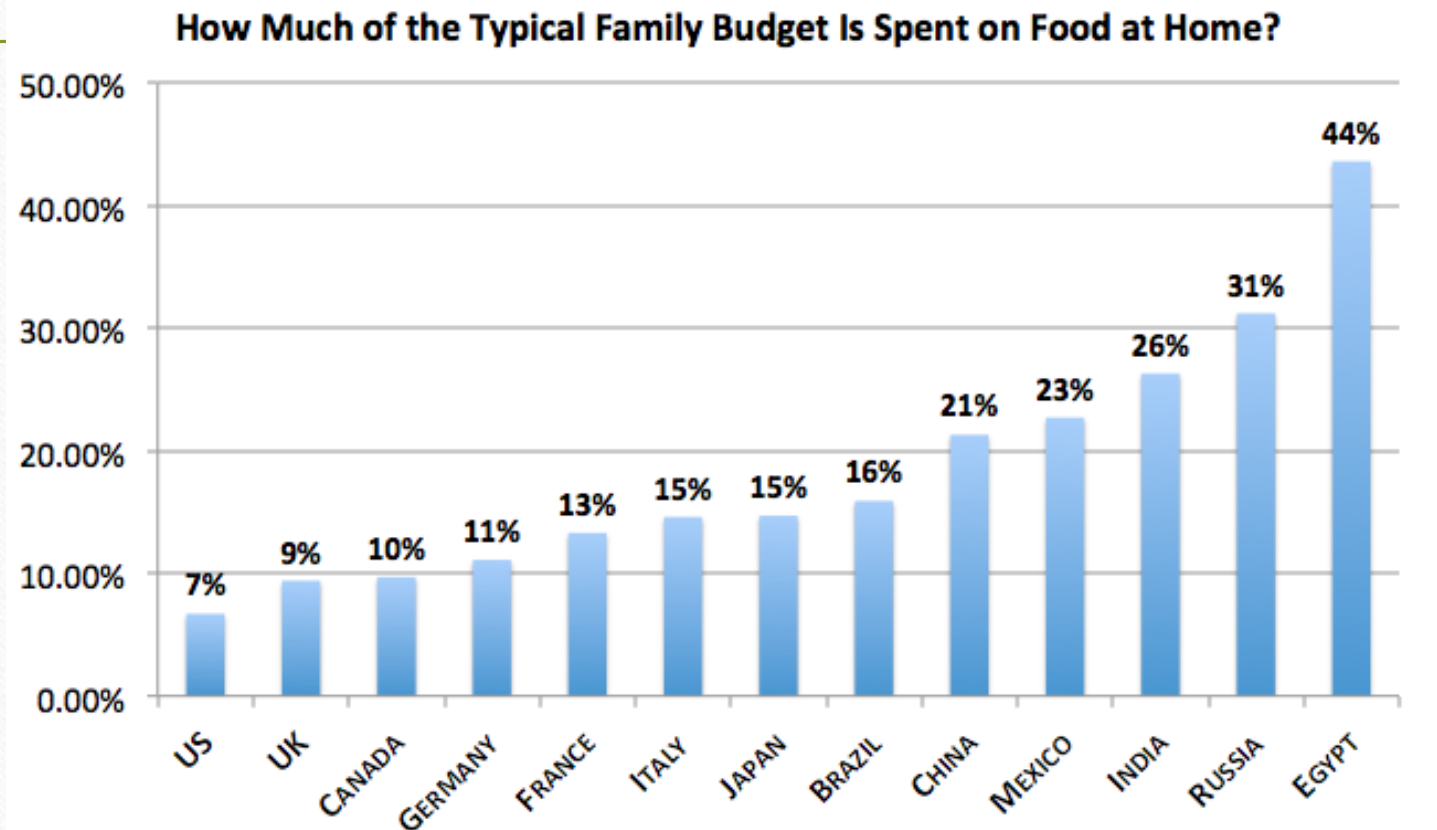
In Class Lesson

- Defined Sustainability used USDA Farm Bill definition
- Talked about Agricultural/Dairy Sustainability
- BASF “A World without Farmers” videos
- Physically showed them:
 - Amount chemical(s) used on an acre
 - Antibiotic labels
 - Increase in efficiency of corn production and milk production per cow
 - Toxicity of Glyphosate verses table salt, Red Bull



% of Income Spent on Food

- Demonstrated this using Monopoly money



Social Media Handout



facebook.



Vonglis Farms LLC
Avon, NY



Merrimac Farms Inc.
Geneseo, NY



Table Rock Farm
Castile, NY



Schoharie Valley
Farms
Schoharie, NY

twitter



@chadmeyer32



@CraigYunker



@NYAnimalAg



@kevinfolta



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You Tube



FairOaksFarms



Peterson Farm
Bros



Find Our Common
Ground



UpstateFarms



Instagram



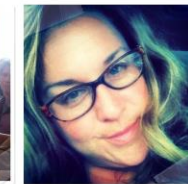
@thecowchronicler



@calfadventures



@joannalidback



@jennideere



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Bernadette Harwood- Educator
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Farm Tour

Specialist in various areas of service to our farm present

- Nutritionist
- AI Specialist
- Veterinarian
- Animal Welfare/Milk Safety
- Crop Consultant/CAFO Specialist
- Precision Ag/Technology
- Agronomist/GMO
- Careers in Agriculture



Jackson's Story



Jackson an outspoken student,
changes his opinion.

My Message

- Don't be afraid to speak up.
- Be persistent.
- SHOW THEM- everything
- ...

