

SUSTAINABILITY CORNER

JUNE 2023

MONOCROPPING

There's no such thing as a free lunch.

MONOCROPPING is large-scale planting of a single crop every year on the same land without crop rotation, resulting in economic and environmental concerns.

Similarly, the same land used to raise livestock is often used to raise the same animal each year, resulting in the same economic and environmental issues.

Monocropping is more profitable for large-scale producers in the short run. However, there are tradeoffs.



ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS

- Decreased soil quality = increase fertilizer use = pollution in lakes and rivers = ocean dead zones
- Increase vulnerability to pests/disease = increase in pesticides/herbicides = residue in food and water

ECONOMIC CONCERNS = INCREASED PRICES

For example:

- Corn can be used to produce an arguably cleaner fuel for vehicles: ethanol.
- If corn is used to produce ethanol, the same corn can't be used to feed animals.
- Producers will have to use other more expensive feed, which will drive the price up.
- This means that there will be less animals coming to market as food, which will drive the price up.

MAKE A PLAN

At some point, your establishment will experience supply chain disruptions for specific products. Look at your menu and identify replacement ingredients if severe shortages and/or price increases occur.