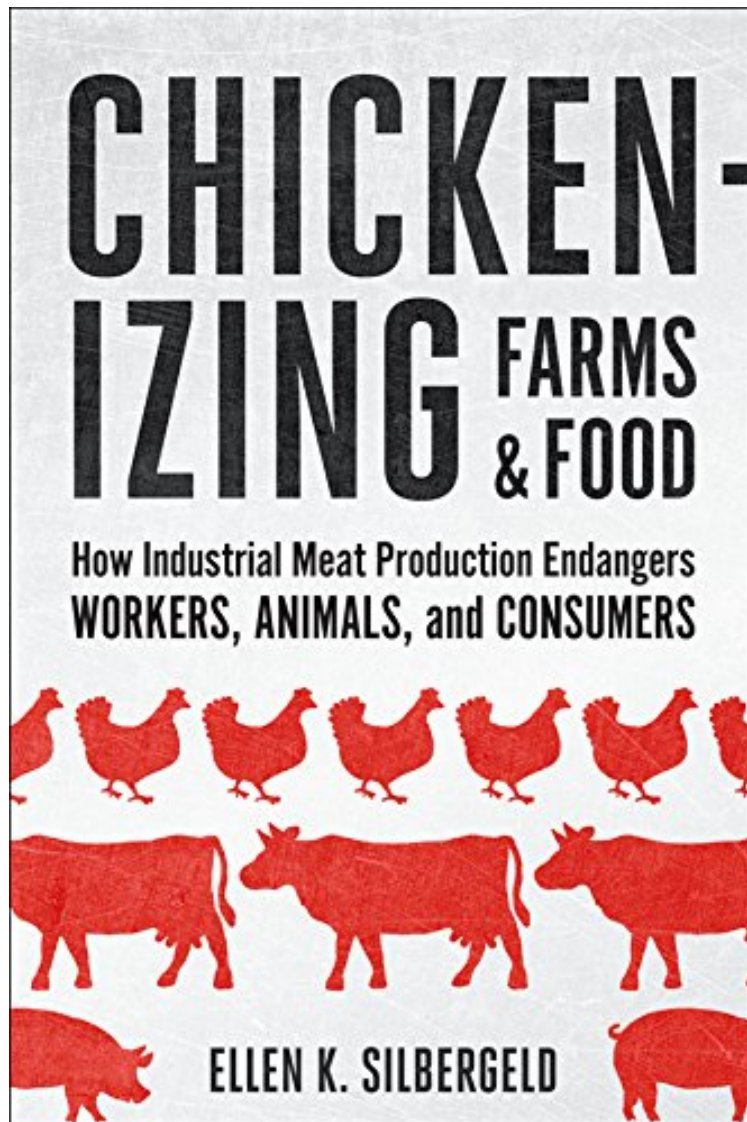


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Chickenizing Farms and Food

Ellen K. Silbergeld

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Ellen K. Silbergeld : Chickenizing Farms and Food before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Chickenizing Farms and Food:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A crucial read for anyone who has concerns about food production. By David L. Wolf The author has delved into a critical area with a dispassionate examination of industrial agriculture, its benefits, its externalized costs, its political perversions and the needs of the population of the world. Her conclusions address the most troubling issues, but would require massive cultural awakenings from not only government and industry, but from consumers as well. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. ... and he said

it was very informative and would recommend for all to read. I gave this book to my brother and he said it was very informative and would recommend for all to read. I will be reading it next and will pass it on to other relatives. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Powerful and well-sourced indictment of industrial food. Despite some very dense going, this is a must-read for anyone interested in the corruption of industrial food systems.

Over the past century, new farming methods, feed additives, and social and economic structures have radically transformed agriculture around the globe, often at the expense of human health. In *Chickenizing Farms and Food*, Ellen K. Silbergeld reveals the unsafe world of chickenization—big agriculture's top-down, contract-based factory farming system—and its negative consequences for workers, consumers, and the environment. Drawing on her deep knowledge of and experience in environmental engineering and toxicology, Silbergeld examines the complex history of the modern industrial food animal production industry and describes the widespread effects of Arthur Perdue's remarkable agricultural innovations, which were so important that the US Department of Agriculture uses the term chickenization to cover the transformation of all farm animal production. Silbergeld tells the real story of how antibiotics were first introduced into animal feeds in the 1940s, which has led to the emergence of multi-drug-resistant pathogens, such as MRSA. Along the way, she talks with poultry growers, farmers, and slaughterhouse workers on the front lines of exposure, moving from the Chesapeake Bay peninsula that gave birth to the modern livestock and poultry industry to North Carolina, Brazil, and China. Arguing that the agricultural industry is in desperate need of reform, the book searches through the fog of illusion that obscures most of what has happened to agriculture in the twentieth century and untangles the history of how laws, regulations, and policies have stripped government agencies of the power to protect workers and consumers alike from occupational and food-borne hazards. *Chickenizing Farms and Food* also explores the limits of some popular alternatives to industrial farming, including organic production, nonmeat diets, locavorism, and small-scale agriculture. Silbergeld's provocative but pragmatic call to action is tempered by real challenges: how can we ensure a safe and accessible food system that can feed everyone, including consumers in developing countries with new tastes for western diets, without hurting workers, sickening consumers, and undermining some of our most powerful medicines?

"An insightful book that should be of interest to anyone who eats food, animal or not." (Kirkus s)"This engaging treatise lays out a compelling case for reexamining the way we produce the food we eat. Required reading for those who are interested in learning more about where our food comes from." (Library Journal)"Little doubt exists that meat production is fraught with problems. After reading Silbergeld's book, my next visit to the farmer's market will be a more enlightened one." (Science)"A sobering, vivid tour of people and places covers the far-reaching impact of Arthur Perdue's chicken empire, animal feed antibiotics and MRSA, worker safety at a hog-slaughter megaplant in Tar Heel, North Carolina, and Brazil and China's recent "chickenization"." (Chronicle of Higher Education)" *Chickenizing Farms Food* is essential reading for anyone concerned about food safety, about worker safety, and the industry that has far too little concern for either." (Metapsychology)"... much good can be found in these pages, and Ellen K. Silbergeld offers useful input regarding the most complicated question in globalization and food production today: what are we supposed to do about it?" (San Francisco Book)"She is clear-eyed and practical in the solutions she offers at the end of the book. Refreshingly, Silbergeld does not advocate a return to "the agriculture of the past" (which she believes is romanticized and effective only for affluent producers and consumers), but rather a systematic overhaul of agriculture as an industry." (Choice)"Silbergeld writes in an easy, conversational style that demonstrates a sweeping knowledge of human history ranging from the Egyptians to Immanuel Wallerstein's works on the modern world system. She also marshals an impressive array of facts to defend her case. *Chickenizing Farms Food* is a must-read for anyone who cares about the production of the things we eat." (Washington Independent of Books)"The strengths of this volume are its clear presentation of concepts and evidence, lucid explanations of the supporting science, and spirited critique of both sides in the Big Ag/Food vs. Small/Local Ag/Food encounter." (FoodAnthropology)"The book is engaging and compelling... She [Silbergeld] glosses over nothing." "A powerfully original exploration of the problems of industrial-scale animal agriculture that touches on public health, the environment, and worker safety. No one else has written so thoughtfully or vividly about the 'chickenization' of the agricultural industry around the world and what it means. Silbergeld has written an important, informative, and excellent book." (Tom Pelton, host of *The Environment in Focus* public radio program)"Listen to Ellen. The dangers that she reveals are real, but so are the opportunities to do better. As a life-long farmer, producing over 50 million chickens annually with no antibiotics or drugs, I know that a superior—and safer?—model can be successful." (Scott I. Sechler, Owner, Bell Evans)"It takes a tough professor to write a book that takes on the proponents and opponents of the industrialization of agriculture at the same time. Ellen Silbergeld's approach is based in public health: how to make sure all people are able to access nutritious and safe food. She writes with data, humor and passion. This is a critical contribution to discussions about our global food supply." (Joshua M. Sharfstein, MD, former Principal Deputy Commissioner of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, Associate Dean for Public Health Practice and

Training, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health)"This timely book raises issues at the core of our agricultural dilemma. If we're going to expand production sustainably and safely, we need to take this uncomfortable dive into the murky ways in which we keep ourselves fed." (Jonathan Rushton, Royal Veterinary College, London)"This is a must read for anyone interested in our food system?how we got here, why it doesn't work, and how we move forward. Ellen Silbergeld has many groundbreaking insights about how and why the industry failed us when it comes to public health, food safety, and protecting workers." (Fedele Bauccio, CEO, Bon Appetit Management Company)"What are the consequences of the industrialization of our food production? Ellen Silbergeld's journey shows why we should be worried, and offers a glimpse of a hopeful future." (Jan Kluytmans, Consultant Microbiologist and Infection Control Specialist, Breda, The Netherlands)"Chickenizing Farms and Food is an insightful look at where our food comes from and how it is brought to the dinner plate. Silbergeld brings us face to face with the harsh reality as she explores ways we can go forward in feeding the world." (Food Inc.'s Carole Morison)"Our agricultural systems and processes have changed over the last century, with unintended consequences?from increased human health risks to degraded environmental conditions. Bravo to Dr. Silbergeld for reminding us of our past, confronting us with a reality we have allowed, and presenting us with questions for which we must find answers." (William C. Baker, President, Chesapeake Bay Foundation)"This absorbing and compelling work exposes the interconnected risks to food and worker safety from industrialized animal production. Silbergeld describes the devastating impact of deliberate manipulation and weakening of consumer and worker protections by powerful vested interests. Few books have the power to change public policy. This is one." (James Ritchie, International Union of Food Workers (IUF))About the AuthorEllen K. Silbergeld is a professor of environmental health sciences, epidemiology, and health policy and management at Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. In 1993, she was the recipient of a MacArthur "genius grant."