**Question Bank**

**Chapter 11**

**An Overview of the Food System, Economic Systems, and Systems Theory**

**Think Break Questions** (from Book: p. 159)

1. Given the largest proportion of our food dollar does not go towards the food input, what are we actually buying when we purchase food (at home or away from home) within the US food system?

2. What implication does your answer to question one have for policies or interventions designed to change the food environment to support healthy eating?

3. Suppose you are working with a local extension agent to develop a local food market. Discuss why you may need to answer the six *what*, *how*, *how much*, *where*, *when*, *for whom* questions before having an open meeting with farmers. Do you need to answer all of the questions or just some before the meeting?

4. What confirmation bias might you suffer from in thinking about the food system as it relates to health?

5. How do the five principles from systems theory affect your view of the food environment?

***Multiple Choice Questions***

1. What type of farm did Margaret grow up on?

a. A sheep farm

b. A row crop farm

c. A dairy farm

2. Regarding the production of food, what are the basic questions that must be answered regarding production?

a. What, How, How Much, Where, When, Where to sell it

b. Variety Type, Planting Season, Harvest Season, Irrigation and Fertilizer Levels

c. Location, Market Size, Customer Income, Price levels, Advertising

d. Organic vs non-organic, Pesticide Levels, Harvest methods

3. The five major sectors in food production are farming and fishing, food processors, food distributors, grocery stores, and restaurants.

a. True

b. False

4. If you sell one feeder steer for $1200 you would be considered a farmer.

a. True

b. False

5. There are currently about how many farms in the US?

a. 500,000

b. 2,000,000

c. 3,000,000

6. One who sells goods to someone other than the final consumer is called a

a. merchant.

b. wholesaler.

c. entrepreneur.

7. Enterprises in the food and beverage manufacturing sector buy processed foods from food processors and sell to them to consumers.

a. True

b. False

8. Food wholesaling is the component of food marketing mainly related to assembly, storage, and transportation of food products.

a. True

b. False

9. Grocery stores, supermarkets, convenience stores, produce markets, meat markets, retail bakeries, and specialty food stores, such as candy stores, are all examples of

a. food wholesalers.

b. food and beverage stores.

c. food service establishments.

10. The food dollar refers to the annual expenditures by US consumers on domestically produced foods.

a. True

b. False

11. The industry group series gives the profit each sector in the food system is making.

a. True

b. False

12. For food-away-from-home (e.g., restaurants), actual food products from the farm make up about what percent of the food dollar?

a. 3%

b. 13%

c. 30%

13. For food-at-home (e.g., grocery stores), actual food products from the farm make up about what percent of the food dollar?

a. 8%

b. 18%

c. 80%

14. Food marketing services is a comprehensive term designed to represent all services provided in the market that exist between the farmer and the consumer.

a. True

b. False

15. All food products can be defined in what three dimensions?

a. initial stage, middle stage, final stage

b. creation, growing/processing, consumption

c. space, time, form.

16. The food system consists of the operations and processes involved in transforming raw materials into food through production, distribution, and consumption by domestic firms.

a. True

b. False

17. The food system is also known as

a. big food.

b. the food supply chain.

c. a and b.

18. An economic system is the organizational arrangement a society uses to answer the six fundamental questions of resource allocation for production and consumption: what, how, how much, where, when, and for whom.

a. True

b. False

19. The three core structural elements of economic systems are

a. producers, wholesalers, and consumers.

b. resources, infrastructure, incentives.

c. motivation, decision making, information.

20. Systems theory explains the importance of treating the components of a system as independent to understand processes.

a. True

b. False

***Short Answer Questions***

1. For the food dollar, list the sectors that have a larger share of the food dollar than the farm sector and their approximate percent of the food dollar for food away from home and food at home.

2. List the six fundamental production questions that must be answered in an economic system. Discuss how a family growing a garden may answer these questions.

3. Explain why the systems perspective is so important in medicine. What happens if the systems perspective is not followed in medicine? Give an analogy with the food system.

***Discussion Questions***

1. Based on your knowledge of the distribution of the food dollar, if you were trying to make healthy food cheaper, what sector should you target and why? Think of two examples of policies targeted at this sector that you think would work to improve nutrition. Discuss these policies in the context of the motivation structure, the decision making structure, and the information structure.

2. Systems theory indicates that analyzing a component of a system in isolation from another component can lead to faulty inferences. Using this idea, discuss why you may come to one conclusion about a subsidy to farmers to produce organic foods to promote health and another conclusion if you take into account another link in the food system chain, such as restaurants.