

Food for Thought

- U.S. per capita food waste has progressively increased, reaching more than 1,400 calories per person per day or 150 trillion calories per year. (1)
- 40% of all food produced in the U.S. is thrown out. (1)
- Food waste accounts for more than one quarter of the total freshwater consumption and ~300 million barrels of oil per year. (1)
- Food waste is more than 14% of the total municipal solid waste stream. Less than 3% of the 34 million tons of food waste generated in 2009 was recovered and recycled. The rest — 33 million tons — was thrown away. (2)
- 40-50% of all food ready for harvest in the U.S. never gets eaten. (3)
- More than 50 million Americans live in food insecure households. (4)
- 14.7% of American households were food insecure at least some time during 2009. (5)
- Georgia is one of five states with statistically significant higher household food insecurity rates than the national average — 15.6%. (4)

1. Hall KD, Guo J, Dore M, Chow CC (2009) "The Progressive Increase of Food Waste in America and Its Environmental Impact." *PLoS ONE* (plosone.org/article/info%3Adoi%2F10.1371%2Fjournal.pone.0007940)
2. "Basic Information about Food Waste," Environmental Protection Agency (epa.gov/osw/conserves/materials/organics/food/fd-basic.htm)
3. "Half of US food goes to waste," November 25, 2004, *Food Production Daily.com* (foodproductiondaily.com/Supply-Chain/Half-of-US-food-goes-to-waste)
4. "Hunger & Poverty Statistics," *Feeding America* (feedingamerica.org/hunger-in-america/hunger-facts/hunger-and-poverty-statistics.aspx)
5. "Food Security in the United States," *USDA Economic Research Service* (ers.usda.gov/Briefing/FoodSecurity)