



## MAPPING FOOD DESERTS IN TEXAS

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Green Revolution technologies in fertilizers, pesticides, and herbicides have reinvented agriculture with the goal of making food crops more efficient and more abundant. Unfortunately, this positive intention has been offset by the extreme damage that “green” technologies cause to soil and water and therefore to both producers and consumers of agricultural products. When farmers over irrigate and apply chemical fertilizers and pesticides to their land, they become stuck in a loop of digging deeper wells to reach groundwater and applying more chemicals to their land to compensate for its poor quality and grow a crop suitable for market. These expenses quickly add up, driving smaller farms out of business and allowing larger farms to buy the land. This increase in large farms since the start of the Green Revolution has resulted in a shift away from small food crops towards monoculture crops like soy, wheat, cotton, and corn, which, although profitable, are not directly sold to consumers as food. Consumers must then make the decision to travel far distances for fresh food or to eat less healthy, but more easily available food. The aim of this project is to determine how the general change in agricultural practices has affected consumers’ access to healthy, locally-grown food in the Dallas-Fort Worth area. The relationship between farming changes and food insecurity is explored using geographic information systems and the experiences and observations of farmers are included through qualitative interviewing. By understanding the food landscape in Texas and the goals of the local food movement, insight can be provided on how to improve the lives of real people by giving them access to fresh, healthy food.

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