

Literacy Questions
To be used in with FB News, July 9, 2007
“FB: Don’t believe the ‘food v. fuel’ hype”
http://www.fb.org/newsroom/fbn/2007/FBN_07-09-07.pdf

Directions: Write the letter of the BEST answer in the blank provided. (1 pt. each)

1. ____ According to the American Farm Bureau Federation, the recent rise in food costs can be attributed to
 - A. ethanol production
 - B. government subsidies and heavy rains
 - C. weather and high energy costs
 - D. Americans’ appetite for corn-based foods

2. ____ In the first paragraph of the article, American Farm Bureau Federation says “the ‘food versus fuel’ issue is rhetoric, not reality.” What is rhetoric?
 - A. a scientific theory based on fact
 - B. a new variety of corn
 - C. an adverting slogan
 - D. a false, showy statement used to stir up a person’s emotions

3. ____ From May, 2006 to May, 2007, food and beverage prices rose _____.
 - A. 4 percent
 - B. 4 dollars
 - C. \$2.20
 - D. 2.2 cents

4. ____ According to John Urbanchuk, why do energy costs have a great impact on food costs?
 - A. Farmers must raise the cost of corn to offset the cost of tractor fuel.
 - B. Energy is required to produce, process, package, and ship each food item.
 - C. Corn is used in the production of fuel.
 - D. Increasing amounts of the nation’s fuel supply must come from renewable fuels.

5. ____ You can infer from the article that high-fructose corn syrup is used in
 - A. livestock feed
 - B. cereal
 - C. soft drinks
 - D. pancake syrup

6. ____ According to LECG, rising energy costs
 - A. had twice the impact of corn prices on the consumer price index for food.
 - B. had almost no effect on the consumer price index for food.
 - C. will taper off and will not have a lasting effect on food prices.
 - D. affect farms all over the world.

7. _____ In paragraph 8, Francl says, “These articles and reports are generally vague about the specific connection between ethanol demand and food prices.” Vague means

- A. false
- B. detailed
- C. unclear
- D. supported by statistics

8. _____ Which of the following statements BEST tells the main idea of the article?

- A. The demand for ethanol is making food more expensive.
- B. Writers at the Washington Post lack an understanding of agricultural economics.
- C. News reports blame ethanol demand for the rise in food prices, but many economists say higher food prices have been caused by bad weather and higher fuel prices.
- D. Food and beverage prices will continue to rise as the demand for corn-based ethanol rises.

Open Response

If the increased demand for ethanol is *not* driving up food prices, what *is*? Tell two factors that that have affected food prices and explain *how* these factors influence food prices. **You must use information from the article to support your answer.** (2 points)

Rubric

4—The student lists at least two factors (early freeze, low supply of wheat, cutting back of milk production, rising cost of energy) AND the student explains how each factor would cause food prices to rise. (List 2, explain 2)

3—The student lists two factors but only explains one of them. (List 2, explain1)

2—The student lists two factors but does not explain OR the student lists one factor and explains that one factor. (List 2)

1-The student lists one factor from the article. (List 1)

Multiple Choice Key

- 1. C
- 2. D
- 3. A
- 4. B
- 5. C
- 6. A
- 7. C
- 8. C