Our Global Food Ethic

By Luke Mick

My partner (who has now left for college) and I both have highly similar food ethics, and mine has even developed thanks to him. The two of us firmly believe that a local sustainable food chain, like growing your own food or purchasing from local farms, is the path to a better future. But, we also realize that before the world were to come to this ethic, they must first abandon their current ways. With this, we realized that this future is near impossible. Yet, we can still live by this ethic even if no one else will.

The current industrial food system is what nearly every American lives by. We can say with surety that many of those same Americans know that a local sustainable food chain would be far better, but the current system has something that the local sustainable chain does not. The industrial food system has convenience on its side. With fast food chains like McDonald’s and Taco Bell (my favorite, not going to lie), food is available to us right around the corner at super cheap prices and lightning fast speed. It’s understandable that this was a revolutionarily wonderful idea when it was introduced, but the costs were overshadowed by the supposed benefits. It is predicted that, in the very near future, one in three Americans will be considered obese. A local sustainable food chain would not only greatly benefit our health, but the food actually tastes far better to most people.

That is what our “Italian” local sustainable theme is all about. Supporting farms all across the globe. At first the idea of local Italian felt a little contradictory, but with the development of our consumer ethics, it started to make far more sense. Not all of the ingredients within our meals were purely local, or even Italian, but if we had been able to do so, our dishes would have greatly contributed to both local and global farms, as well as provide a healthier meal than most of us are used to in the current system. Sure, with this ethic comes more work and far less convenience, but you’d finally have more of those wonderful moments with your family at the dinner table rather than the car. While most of us probably won’t be switching to this way of life no matter how highly we speak of it, we can at least recognize that with it, there is a possibility that some of us can switch to a healthier lifestyle.