




*Believe it or not,  
agriculture as we  
practice it today  
destroys the ecology.*

*‘As much as 1/3 of greenhouse  
gases that human activity has  
added to the atmosphere can be  
attributed to the saw and the  
plow.’*

*Joel Salatin and Polyface Farm*



*This has occurred  
through:*

1. Cutting forests

2. Tilling soil

-removing the root structure

-erosion from wind

-erosion from water

3. Depletion of nutrients

*Cattle drives are actually  
ok, not terribly destructive.*





**Fencing & overgrazing  
created huge problems.**

1. killed off prairie grasses

2. top soil erosion

3. nothing to slow run off from flash rains

4. scouring of creeks

5. window for foreign species to take hold

6. almost impossible to recover





*How'd he do it?*



1. Steep slopes and north faces returned to forest

2. Rest of farm given to grasslands

3. 'Mob and Move' grazing pattern





*My manure adds  
nitrogen to the soil.*

*My manure is used  
for fertilization and  
chicken food.*

*We all do our part to  
make the farm work.*

*There were two external  
factors contributing to Joel  
Salatin's creativity.*





**Allan Nation: 'Stockman Grass Farmer'**  
**Joel is close friends with Nation and thinks of him as something of a mentor.**

**Mentorship:**  
**There were three influential people in Joel Salatin's life.**



*Fred was an inventor and a tinkerer.*




*His grandfather, Fred Salatin, was another important mentor.*







*William started Polyface on  
550 acres of devastated  
land.*



*Joel's father, William,  
bought  
a farm in Venezuela to  
'get out from under both  
conventions and  
regulation.'*











*Cheap industrialized food is heavily subsidized in many ways such that its price at the supermarket does not reflect its real cost.*

*Government subsidies make corn cheaper to buy than to raise.*



Competition: fierce fight with agribusiness and government/agriculture monopoly.

*Regulations prevent smaller  
meat processing operations  
for cattle.*



*Grading system is based  
on marbling that favors  
corn-fed beef.*

*But we like grass.*





**'an alternative food system  
is rising up on the margins.  
One day Frank Purdue and  
Don Tyson are going to  
wake up and find that their  
world has changed.'**



*Joel Salatin and Polyface Farm*

*There are two Internal Forces  
adding to Joel's creativity.*



***Craft:**  
Joel grew up doing all of  
the chores, learning the  
way the farm worked  
and the way the land  
worked.*

***Grunt work laying the  
foundation for creativity.***



***Extrapolation:***

***Natural forces reconfigured-  
learning a natural system, then  
extending it by being consistent  
with its principals.***

*Joel Salatin and Polyface Farm*





**FOOD, INC.**









