

## “American Wasteland”; A Shocking and Informative Look Into America’s Food Systems

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“American Wasteland: How America Throws Away Nearly Half of it’s Food (and what we can do about it)” written by Jonathan Bloom and published in 2010, is an informative, easy to read exposé about food waste in our country. If I could, I would require every America citizen to read this book, but I do not have that type of power! Instead, I highly recommend it to you.

Bloom takes readers on a journey through American farms, food processors, food distributors, restaurants, grocery stores, landfills, and even our own homes using knowledge that he gained from real-world experience and interviews with experts and academics. All the while he highlights the business and societal systems that allow for nearly half of our annual crop yield to be wasted. With every page I turned, I felt that I was gaining more knowledge and therefore more power to change our flawed food systems, which is one of Bloom’s main intentions with this book. Bloom also highlights the disparity between the vast amount of American food waste and hunger in our country. While 1 in 7 Americans are food insecure, approximately 160 billion pounds of food is thrown away every year. This should be especially important to Texans, as our state has the second highest rate of hunger in the nation.

If you are interested in food issues and how what you eat affects the environment, then “American Wasteland” is a must-read. A copy of the book is available at the Davis library, another is available at the Haggard library, and it is also available at most bookstores.