Feeding Ourselves Thirsty?

New data shows draining U.S. groundwater supplies could affect food security & food sector financial performance

Three of the most tapped aquifers in the U.S. irrigate many of the crops sold by the largest food companies.

![Aquifers Map]

Most of this groundwater goes to cereal grains, meat & dairy production, and fruits & vegetables. 93% of groundwater depletion from 2000-2008 was from these 3 aquifers. Continued overuse will impact food security and pose financial risks to major food companies.

These food companies depend most on crops irrigated from the three aquifers:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>California’s Central Valley Aquifer</th>
<th>High Plains Aquifer</th>
<th>Mississippi Embayment Aquifer</th>
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</table>
| Nestle:  
- Dairy | Cargill:  
- Corn, Wheat & Beef | Tyson:  
- Poultry & Corn |
| Campbell Soup:  
- Tomatoes & Carrots | Bunge:  
- Corn & Soy | Kellogg’s:  
- Rice |
| Whitewave:  
- Almonds & Lettuce | ADM:  
- Corn, Soy & Wheat | Smithfield:  
- Pork & Corn |
| General Mills:  
- Tomatoes, Nuts & Dairy | JBS:  
- Beef & Corn | Tyson:  
- Poultry & Corn |
| Dean Foods:  
- Dairy | Tyson:  
- Poultry & Corn | Smithfield:  
- Pork & Corn |

Source: http://news.illinois.edu/infographics/aquifers.html
Ranking the nation’s 37 largest food companies on how effectively they are managing precious freshwater supplies:

Ceres’ 2015 Food and Beverage benchmarking report scored companies on a 1-to-100-point scale on their responses in anticipating and mitigating these risks, with the highest score being Unilever with 70 points, the lowest being Monster Beverage and Pinnacle Foods, with just one point each.

On average, 10 liters of water are needed to produce one calorie of meat; 1.2 liters are needed for one calorie of lentils or beans, and half a liter for one calorie of root vegetables such as carrots.

For more information
Ceres’ Food and Beverage Benchmarking Report: www.ceres.org/FoodWaterRisk
University of Illinois Study: http://go.illinois.edu/aquiferstudy

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