

Bruce Myer

Honesty • Integrity • Experience

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VIZCAYA The perfect beach retreat! Walk to the beach or swim in your private swimming pool! Features marble, hardwood floors, crown molding, & numerous built-ins. Pet friendly. **\$3,595,000**

► www.Vizcaya1A1.com



FAIRWAY BAY Totally remodeled residence. New carpet, tile, appliances. Kitchen & bath redone. Deeded beach access. Furnished. Close to shopping, marina & golf! **\$539,900**

► www.1932FairwayBay216.com



LIDO SHORES A 4BR/3BA house with a fenced yard and a large pool. Deeded beach access. **\$1,450,000**

► www.1125CenterPlace.com



ATRIUM AT FAIRWAY BAY Direct views of the bay & city from this spectacular 3rd floor residence. **\$995,000**

► www.7175Longbeach23-24.com



PORTOBELLO 2BR/2BA plus den is totally renovated: granite, crown molding, new appliances & cabinets. **\$495,000**

► www.3240Portobello105.com



BEACHPLACE Light and bright, 2BR/2BA corner residence. Private stairway to beach. Furnished. **\$689,000**

► www.1065Beachplace101.com



WATER CLUB Beachfront residence & 3 terraces. Marble floors, upgrades, & 2 covered parking spaces. **\$2,795,000**

► www.1241WaterClub202.com



LIDO SHORES Designed by Philip Hiss. Contemporary 3BR/3BA home with deeded beach access. **\$1,450,000**

► www.110Morningside.com

LONGBOAT KEY TOWERS Direct Gulf with southwest exposure – great sunsets from 2 terraces! 3BR/3BA residence behind the gates of the Longboat Key Club. **\$1,499,000**

► www.LongboatKeyTowers401S.com



THE SANCTUARY The best value in The Sanctuary! Light & bright corner residence. Immaculate, with great attention to detail in the 3 BR, 2.5BA Monaco floor plan. **\$1,450,000**

► www.SanctuaryA203.com

FAIRWAY BAY Light, bright remodeled townhouse. Granite in kitchen, new tile throughout, fireplace, a truce vacation retreat. **\$579,000**

► www.FairwayBay422.com

FAIRWAY BAY Astounding bay views from this 2 BR/2BA home. Architecturally designed and appointed with numerous built-ins, custom lighting, mirrors & creatively designed storage! **\$549,000**

► www.Fairwaybay1704.com

LONGBEACH Direct Gulf front, 3/4BR/3BA condo. Gourmet kitchen w/granite counters. **\$1,099,000**

► www.7175Longbeach23-24.com

THE BAYOU This 3BR/3.5BA home is nestled in a lush, tropical setting. Large rooms, lots of storage, huge garage, & heated pool. **\$999,000**

► www.3311Bayou.com

SEAGATE Breathtaking views of the Gulf from every room of this 2BR/2BA. Furnished. **\$899,000**

► www.2425Seagate4D.com

CEDARS WEST Enjoy sunsets from this charming residence in a quiet gulf front community. Attractively turnkey furnished, updated 2BR/2BA. **\$759,000**

► www.5655CedarsWest205.com

LONGBOAT HARBOUR Located on a deep-water canal, this condo has great views & is completely remodeled: new stainless appliances, wood cabinets & quartz counters. **\$375,000**

► www.4390LongboatHarbour105.com

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Coldwell Banker Residential Real Estate, Inc.
at The Charthouse on Longboat Key



Staying Alive

Agricultural Inspections May Be Solution

Dr. Matthew Edlund
Contributing Columnist

Killed by Lettuce

Vegetables coated with virulent E. coli bacteria have killed several Americans in the last few weeks, and maimed many more. The chain of causality for this and other health tragedies lies in the peculiar American political economy of food and health.

Industrial Agriculture

The food that arrives on your plate is transported an average of 2,000 miles before you eat it. Much of it is produced by large industrial-agro combines whose interest in corporate growth and lax self-regulation is sometimes greater than their concerns for nutrition or taste.

Despite a professed love of the market's invisible hand, American agriculture is warped by government subsidies. Most of these are reaped by large companies who have the political clout and contribution largesse to obtain large water supplies as they grow larger. Local agriculture, taste, and the consumer usually lose out.

Wiping out smaller local farms has multiple effects. Rural areas become void of people, as their economies shift rapidly or wither. Land near cities becomes available for exurban development, making urban transport networks more difficult to create and producing greater dependence on commuting cars. Further dependence on foreign oil occurs as local agricultural production declines, requiring longer transport of foodstuffs. Local populations became culturally separated from agriculture and the land, eating distantly grown food that frequently loses both taste and nutritional value. Many fast foods, for example, have the taste measures "rebuilt" by adding last minute artificial flavors to industrially processed plantstuffs and meat. Americans become sufficiently alienated from the realities of growing things that some get bothered by "rainy days" that ruin the "good weather" brought on by droughts.

The answer in Europe has been the "slow food movement," the revival of local economies with local food as an inherent part of local culture. In the U.S., fast food continues to expand. The ultimate result is worsened nutrition at higher prices, with a markedly increased long term health and health care costs. Further, the loss of local foods and produce to native culture cannot be quantified.

Regulation

It's no secret in agricultural circles that the Bush administration is "friendly" to food producers, especially very big ones. In the first few years in power, US Department of Agriculture inspectors dramatically decreased inspections. Outbreaks of listeria monocytogenes and other pathogens increased, along with decreased surveillance of mad cow disease. The administration has continuously backed "self-regulation" by larger companies.

If you don't look for something, you don't find it, right?

Until it finds you. Besides increasing outbreaks of meat borne disease, overall

food safety is adversely affected. The leading theory of what is causing the increased E.coli infestations of lettuce and many other outbreaks is bacterially rich runoff from adjoining eef lots.

Yet most plantstuffs are regulated, lightly, by the FDA, which is far more engaged in regulating drugs. Meat is the province of the Department of Agriculture. What happens when beef or pig runoff causes human infection? The two regulatory bodies feud. Little changes.



What to Do

The problems of policing the American foods supply are soluble. Vegetables are among the most important, useful, and healthful part of the American diet. Multiple nutrients reside in vegetables, with greater nutritional variety than wheat or staple crops. Vegetables consume far less energy to create than meat. They can be grown in ways that are more ecologically sustainable than many other crops. Over two thirds of Americans are overweight by conservative government calculations, and the numbers are scarily rising. So is our addiction to foreign oil, and the costs of fighting wars to obtain it. Under present circumstances, eating locally grown vegetables is positively patriotic.

Food Safety

The mess of agricultural subsidies can be fixed by looking at how many European countries revived local agriculture. Market incentives need not always go to giant industrial-agro combines that have together created the tasteless square tomato and the bounty of fast food. Production generally flows where government money goes.

The regulatory mess can be fixed, as has often been suggested, by having all of food, meat and plant foodstuffs under the same regulatory body. Neither the FDA, politically under the thumb of the pharmaceutical industry that finances it, nor the Department of Agriculture, beholden to the Archer-Daniels-Midlands of the World, are ideal winners of this turf battle. Whoever wins the bureaucratic war, food inspection should target public health.

First, you make sure food is safe. You begin real inspections, not waiting for the larger corporations to do the job, but hoping they'll get the idea. You recognize that your food supply powerfully affects national health. You stop subsidizing corn based dextrose and other unhealthy products, which should save many billions in future health care costs. Getting rid of the USDA's food industry dominated Food Pyramid would be a fine place to start.

Politics of Health

With attention to the political economy of health, we can have cheap, safe food, grown locally, that is tasty, nutritious, and pleasure to eat. Right now, there is a general lack of awareness that the problem even exists. When that awareness comes, the political will to increase our lifespan and diminish foreign oil dependence may follow.