

# DECREASING WASTED FOOD IN CONNECTICUT



**Harvard**  
Food Law and Policy Clinic  
A Division of the Center for Health Law and Policy Innovation

THE  
DATING  
GAME

APR 26 16

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# Harvard

Food Law and Policy Clinic

A Division of the Center for Health Law and Policy Innovation

- **Serve clients**
- **Train students**
- **4 Main Policy Areas:**
  - **Community Empowerment**
  - **Sustainable Food Production**
  - **Food Access & Obesity Prevention**
  - **Reducing Food Waste**

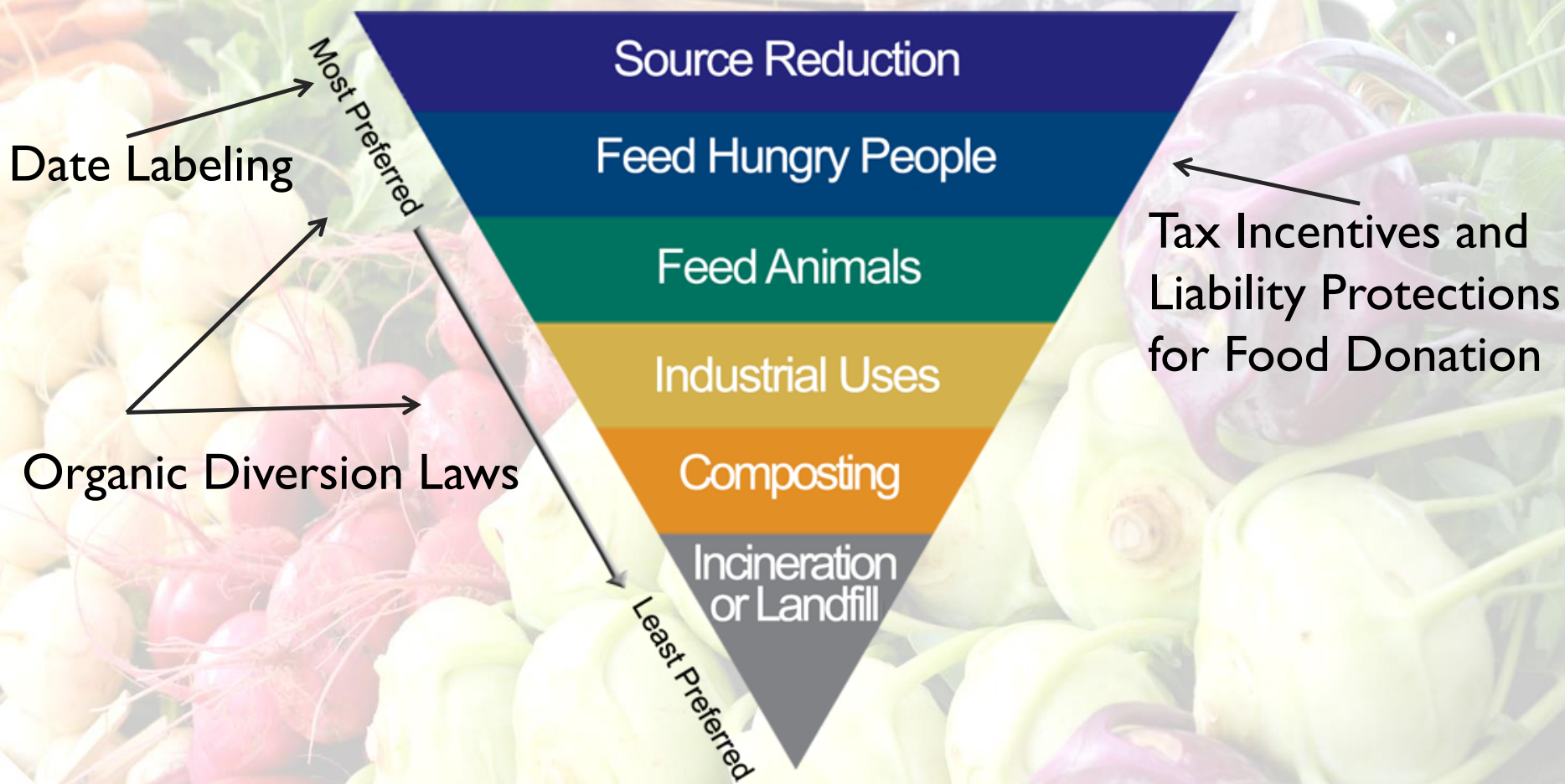




# National Food Waste Reduction Goal 50% by 2030



# Food Recovery Hierarchy





# Expired?



<http://notreallyexpired.com>

NRDC REPORT

SEPTEMBER 2013  
R:13-09-A

## The Dating Game:

How Confusing Food Date Labels  
Lead to Food Waste in America



Confusion over expiration dates is a leading cause of food waste.

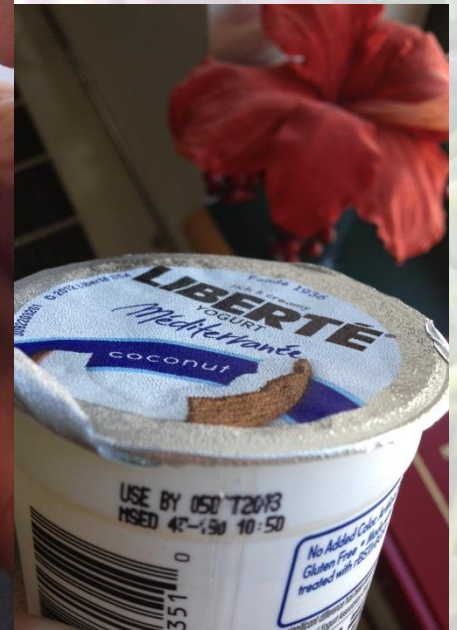
Report available at:

<http://www.chlpi.org/projects-and-publications/food-library>



# Significant food waste

- **Businesses** lose \$900 million each year (2001 data)
- **Consumers** waste up to \$2,275 per household on food thrown away\* (2011 data)





# Expiration Dates in Connecticut

- **Foods that require a label:** Milk, cream, yogurt, soft cheese, and other dairy products such as cream cheese and sour cream must be marked with a last sale date.
  - “Keep Refrigerated”
  - “Keep Refrigerated After Opening”
- **Voluntary version of the Uniform Open Dating Regulation**
  - “Sell by”
  - “Best if Used by”



# NYC Repealed Date Labeling Law



If milk is handled properly, it will still be safe to consume even after the expiration date passes...

# Federal Solution?

SECTIONS  SEARCH

Hartford Courant

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## Better Food Dating System On Labels Could Save Billions of Dollars



Cities in Massachusetts With the Most Cloudy Days in a Year

#1



Adams, MA  
185 Cloudy Days

SEE THE LIST 





## Tax Incentives and Liability Protections

- Goals:
  - Encourage more food donation
  - Offset costs of food recovery
  - Incentivize innovation and entrepreneurship



# Food Recovery

- Only 10% recovered in US
- Barriers:
  - Liability /bad publicity concerns
  - Distribution, storage, transportation costs
  - \$, time to glean, collect, package, distribute



Table 9. Barriers to Donating Food

	Manufacturing	Retail and Wholesale
Transportation constraints	63%	42%
Liability concerns	50%	67%
Insufficient storage and refrigeration at food banks	50%	50%
Regulatory constraints	50%	17%
Insufficient on-site storage and refrigeration	38%	33%



# Federal Tax Incentives



- Shortfalls of current system:
  - Hurts small donors
  - Hampers innovative food recovery models
  - Fails to cover costs of harvesting, transporting, and storing surplus food

# State Level Tax Incentives

- **Arizona:** State tax deduction for *restaurants* donating food to non-profits that regularly serve free meals to needy and indigent
- **Colorado:** State tax credit for business that donates *agricultural crops (grains, fruit, vegetables), livestock, eggs, dairy* to non-profit hunger relief organizations



# Liability Protections

- Bill Emerson Good Samaritan Food Donation Act



# Connecticut Liability Protections

- Protects donors and non-profits; Extra protection for establishments with hot prepared foods to donation to temporary emergency shelters during states of emergency



# Food Scraps for Animal Feed

- **Connecticut:** allows the feeding of animal-derived waste to swine provided that it has been properly heat-treated and fed by a licensed facility.
  - All other waste may be fed to swine without heat-treatment.
  - Individuals may feed household garbage to their own swine without heat-treating it and without obtaining a permit.

# THANK YOU!



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