

November 29 Day 52

Take out the literal questions up to p73

Summarize ch 4 & 5

**Tips for summarizing:**

- **look at title**
- **look at headings**
- **include key terms**
- **"What's the point?"**

p52. What is the author's reaction at the sight of so much corn rotting on the ground? He feels that something is deeply wrong. He quotes Ricardo Salvatore who felt sick at the sight so much corn on the ground. In some cultures treating food like that is a sin. Pollan realizes that corn is no longer thought of as a food but as a ...

p53. A **commodity** is something that can be bought and sold. In order to get a consistent price the product should be **uniform**. For example, any batch of number 2 field corn should be as good as any other regardless of the "farm" that grew it.

What is "a great eating camp" (58); "an animal city" (61); "a beef factory" (69)? A feedlot.

p61. What is a CAFO? **Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation**. What are two major problems with CAFO's? **Too much manure becomes toxic pollution**. These feedlots breed new and deadly forms of bacteria.

p63. Explain the partnership between cows and grass. How do they help each other? **Cows and grass have a symbiotic relationship. The grass gives the cow food; the cow fertilizes the ground for the grass and kills other plants.**

p68. Claim: Cows are like cannibals. What details on p. 68 & 69 could support this claim? **Liquefied beef fat is added to cattle food; cows "are also fed parts of other cattle."**

p71. What is the name of the good kinds of fat found in grass-fed cattle? **Omega-3 fatty acids**

p73. Where are e-coli bacteria found? **E-coli bacteria thrive in the stomachs of corn-fed cattle.** What kind of cattle do not have e-coli? **Grass-fed cattle do not have a harmful strain of e-coli.**

#### **4. The Grain Elevator**

Huge silos store vast amounts of corn before it is sent into the "river" as a **commodity** as animal feed or **processed** food products. Cargill & ADM control this river of kernels, from the **GMO** seeds, to the fertilizers and pesticides, to the silos. The farm has become an **industrial** factory. **Why is river a good metaphor?**

## 5. The Feedlot--Turning Corn into Meat

The **feedlot** (CAFO) is a great city of cows or beef factory where cattle are forced to eat an **unnatural** diet of corn instead of grass in **pastures**. (Cattle evolved to eat grass in a partnership.) There are health problems for the cattle and hidden costs for the environment.