Discussion 11

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1. **With lowering food waste on an individual level being costly to the consumer, what are changes that suppliers or policy makers can do to help lower these costs for consumers?**

One major issue that I see that can be changed is packaging on fresh fruit and vegetables. I find from personal experience that many products are sold as larger bundles than I ever need. Having more loose produce allows for customers to choose what they will actually use rather than just what is available. One issue this bring up is that without packaging most fruit and vegetable will not have a sell-by date on them. This means that when people do not have that date as a reference, they are more likely to throw the food out as a precaution when it is still perfectly good to eat. This is a tough balance, however if there was a way to have the items loose with a trackable sell-by date, I believe this would make a large difference to the costs consumers face when handling food consumption decisions.

1. **With longer sell-by dates often lowering sales and the price of milk, would producers have incentives to increase the time it takes them to get the milk to the shelves through cutting urgency and costs of transportation while keeping sales and prices high?**

I believe that this could be a possible scenario if there was no policy in place to regulate days to shelf as well as sell-by date. Suppliers would need to be synchronized on their time to shelf otherwise one supplier could undercut the rest by having the freshest milk on the shelfs. In this scenario it appears that food waste benefits would not be minimized as there would be no difference for the consumer in how they selected their milk between the two sell-by date laws. The longer shelf life also appears to benefit the big out of state suppliers, so if they flood the market due to extended sell-by dates, local suppliers could be pushed out with lower prices and more competition. It is interesting to note that 49 of the 79 licensed distributors in Montana are out of state. To me this was surprisingly high.