

Challenge Letter

Dear Students and Teachers,

It is very important for all Americans—and all people around the world—to have access to nutritious, wholesome and affordable food. As we witness a growing interest in where food comes from, we at the National Turkey Federation (along with other food suppliers) want to share our experience and expertise to educate about food's journey from the farm to your table.

This middle school project seeks to raise awareness of the major challenges facing our global food system. Hunger is a persistent problem in this country and around the world. We see it in developing countries like Kenya where more people constantly fear for lack of adequate food than those who do not. We also see it in developed countries such as the United States where, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), 16.7 million U.S. children under age 18 live in households where they are unable to consistently access enough of the nutritious food necessary for a healthy life.

Current estimates indicate that by 2050 the global population will increase from our current 7 billion to approximately 9 billion. Experts believe that we will have to increase our food production worldwide by 100 percent. We will have to do it with little or no additional land, and we will have to do it at a time when growing numbers of individuals in the United States and other developing countries are advocating for an emphasis on alternative agricultural practices that, because of their cost, increase the challenge of providing affordable food to hungry Americans.

All of this information begs the question for you to explore—**how will we feed a growing world population with a safe, affordable, nutritious and sustainable food supply?** We encourage you to investigate this question, looking closely at the challenges to producing and distributing affordable food, and encourage you to not be afraid to think outside the box for possible solutions.

Each of you will play a large part in the future of fighting hunger. Upon completing the research of your possible solution to feeding the growing world population, you will be asked to present your findings to a panel of community members. We hope this project will inspire you to reach out to your neighbors to help them with food security issues.

Sincerely,

Joel Brandenberger
President
National Turkey Federation

