The Foods of Victory: Food conservation and cultivation during WWI

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The beginning of WWI created an integral movement on the American home front in order to aid those overseas, in which food conservation became a vital aspect of the war effort. The motivational shift on the home front from altruistic duties to patriotic duties is apparent when looking on a more local level in west Tennessee during 1917 and 1918 in the efforts to produce more and consume less food. Provisions were being sent over under Herbert Hoover to aid Belgium and Northern France relief starting in 1914, but the American home front did not become organized in wartime efforts until the U.S. entered WWI in early 1917. The home front was working to meet production demands, which meant that conservation of food and resources became a huge aspect of the fight to win the war. The connection between the local and state government and the national government is evident with the creation and impact of the Food Administration. The Food Administration’s state program worked under direct orders to enforce the directives of the national administration. This can be seen through local newspaper articles and regional propaganda used to increase support the war effort on the home front of west Tennessee in cities such as Dresden, Martin, and Trenton. Tennessee is a well known agricultural state, so farming was the foundation for production of food, particularly wheat, which was a precious resource during World War One. While farmers worked on the home front, women became a major force in the organization of war relief concerning food conservation throughout the nation, including in Tennessee. The organization of propaganda, production, conservation, and transportation of food shows collaboration between the national and local governments. The significant aspect in the plight for conservation during World War One was the example of Tennessee’s organization in upholding the patriotic duties to the country.

Throughout WWI from 1914 until the entry of the United States in 1917, there was a transition of motivations between government-state interactions for the war effort. From the beginning of the First World War, Herbert Hoover played a crucial role in the preparations for relief, as well as organization of food before April of 1917. Herbert Hoover, before the creation of the Food
Administration, created an organization of the Belgium and northern France relief. Hoover estimated the amount of food and supplies sent to the city of Rotterdam for the Belgium people throughout the first year of WWI to be about 983,808 tons between November of 1914 and October, 1915.¹ These resources were gathered through many efforts of committees and charities in the United Stated before 1917 as a humanitarian effort toward the war abroad. The efforts of Americans in the beginning of the war can be seen through Hoover’s aid in Belgium relief, which created a moral interest in the hunger of people in a war torn country.

Tennessee was one of the major states that surpassed the standard when it came to food conservation throughout the war.² The organization of relief was not widely seen on the home front until American soldiers were sent to fight in WWI. As Cecilia Gowdy-Wygant states in Cultivating Victory of both Britain and the U.S., “Both nations and their administrations urged the populace to increase the national food shortages to win the war.”³ So not only was there an effort to conserve food, but also to increase cultivation. The widespread concern throughout the U.S., specifically looking at west Tennessee, can be seen in early 1917 to encourage citizens conserve food as a necessity on the home front during WWI. An article posted March 3rd, 1917 in The Martin Mail that the Secretary of Agriculture calls for people to not cook more than they need each meal and stated “… that the dietary studies made by them [Dept. of Agriculture] point to an annual food waste of about 700,000,000.⁴ As seen from articles in Tennessee newspapers, concern over food shortages began even before the U.S. entered the First World War, as Americans suspected the war in Europe to become more than just a moral concern for the U.S. There was a nationwide drive to promote food conservation more towards the middle and end of WWI on the home front, where motivations shifted from altruistic into patriotic drives for an increase in cultivation for supplying soldiers and allies overseas into 1917.
As an agricultural state, Tennessee has specific provisions that were needed in order to provide for the war effort on the home front. In Cultivating Victory, Gowdy-Wygnant argues, “The methods of food consumption and conservation varied according to the agricultural needs of the nation and region…” So the concern for means of conservation in West Tennessee was with wheat flour. In August of 1917, The Martin Mail posted an article saying, “Remember that the soldiers at the front need flour and that wheat and flour are scarce articles; that the United States government is calling on you to sell every bit of wheat that you can afford to sell because it is needed by the soldiers to help win the war.”

Wheat was an essential item in 1917 all the way into 1918 as well. The Dresden Enterprise published an article on August 18th, 1918 titled, “Urged To Plant More Wheat,” which calls for Weakly county farmers to plant around 4,000 more acres of wheat than the previous year in order to prevent another shortage of flour. This call for increase production was not just about preventing another shortage, but the ability to feed the locals, as well as have enough to send to soldiers.

Another effort of the home front during the First World War was the cultivation of “victory gardens” as seen effective for relieving the nation’s food shortages. The concept of gardening as a tool to win the war was seen through local communities that ordered the cultivation of available land to be used in growing food. In promoting the use of gardens, the commission of the National War Garden was created to organize cultivation for the war effort at home. As seen in an advertisement published by Ryan Block for the Martin Hardware & Furniture Co. in the 1917 April issue of The Martin Mail newspaper, depicts a woman holding gardening tools. “Hoes, Rakes, Forks, Plow Handles, Well Buckets—anything you need to work your farm or garden.”

Victory gardens not only affected each family, but the businesses that provided the tools used to cultivate gardens. Cultivating Victory states, “After the war the National War Garden Commission reported that though Americans plated an impressive 3,000,000 war gardens in 1917, over 5,285,000 war gardens existed in 1918. Therefore…20 million households in 1918, over 25 percent…had war gardens.”

The significance of
gardens in the First World War was in providing communities with the resources needed to conserve for families, as well as for sending to Europe.

The efforts on the American domestic front showed a strong organization during WWI within local communities, but also a wider connection to the national government in conservation of food with the creation of the Federal Food Administration. The Food Administration was established in early 1917 when the U.S. entered World War One. The purpose of the administration was to enforce the Food Control Act, which under president Woodrow Wilson, was to ensure the conservation of food during wartime, prevent people from hoarding food, and transport food. This administration was appointed to Herbert Hoover, who assigned administrators to each state, such as John Harcourt Alexander Morgan in Tennessee.

Hoover’s contribution through the Food Administration is seen through statewide concern over food and production. Cecilia Gowdy-Wygnant writes on President Wilson’s contributions through the Food Administration in Cultivating Victory in which, Hoover enforced the Emergency Food Act in providing $4.3 million to states and counties in order to promote more food conservation. The administration served to create and enforce policies under the Food Administration which during WWI was critical for dealing with food conservation, but also providing for states’ locally as a way to organize relief abroad.

The policies through Herbert Hoover and the Federal Food Administration worked above states in order to enforce policies by using patriotism to encourage more widespread conservation during WWI. One of Hoover’s policies under the Food Administration was a pledge campaign during the war to promote the efforts of conservation. In Tennessee, groups of girls over the age of sixteen went door to door canvassing in order to get people to sign the pledge to conserve. Pledge cards were also passed around in many churches as well. Besides promoting Hoover’s pledge campaign in churches and canvassing, newspaper articles also advertised for the effort. “Prove Your Patriotism” published in the Dresden Enterprise on June, 18th in 1918, “Won’t talk patriotism—show it” Prove your patriotism by “signing the pledge”... Conservation was not the only goal, but also to raise
production of goods to send over to the allied countries and U.S. soldiers. There was a national cry to prevent shortages through conservation. Another role Herbert Hoover played was creating days where meals were wheatless, making Wednesday completely wheatless, and some meatless and porkless meals as well. “Wheatless Wednesday” and other wheatless meals could be replaced with substitutes containing rice or corn. This was a way to reduce flour/wheat consumption nationally.

The Martin Mail also published an article in the newspaper March of 1918 titled, “Entire Country On War Rations…War bread must be made of 20 per cent substitution during war…2 Wheatless Days A Week” which increased the initial consumption rules to more wheatless days. The Food Administration kept this up from Fall of 1917 well into 1918 as a way to preserve flour. The same article also states, “Eat Victory Bread.” This is reference to bread that is not made from flour, making ‘victory bread’ a metaphor of patriotism, better than regular bread with flour in it. The policies enacted by the Food Administration throughout the states shows the significance of the federal government and the nationwide affect WWI had on the domestic front throughout local communities.

The organization of food that was produced in Tennessee in order to aid the soldiers overseas during WWI, as well as at home, was all done under the Food Administration. Food was categorized according to country boards, which then worked under state and national boards. In the History of the United States Food Administration 1917-1919, “An Advisory Board of farmers was created with divisions devoted to grain, livestock, and dairy products. Special Committees of cotton, seed, rice, and sugar growers in different parts of the country were similarly created.” This allowed the Food Administration to keep track of production and exportation of materials. The Food Administration also worked with other branches of the government, such as the War and Navy departments in purchasing food for the armed forces, as well as collaboration with the War Trade Board, the Agriculture Department, and the Railroad Administration. Transporting food to Europe had multiple factors, such as the use of the War Trade Board in order to negotiate trade between countries to successfully sent resources overseas. In the United States, railroads were the primary means of
transporting cargo, including food, to larger ports that would then be shipped abroad. An article in the Dresden Enterprise, June 1918 was published describing the need for conservation of sugar. As a mainly important item, by conserving sugar, more ships could be used to transport goods by the Army and Navy.\textsuperscript{20} Shipping was a major factor in amount of food and resources that could be transported. Therefore organization under the Food Administration was a vital aspect when looking at all the motions that went into sending food to soldiers.

The Food Administration had organization on a national level, but only through the collaboration with state and local levels of government. Promoting individual state patriotism and conservation was a key goal during the war. An article in the Dresden Enterprise April, 22 1918 titled, “Conserve Flour; Help Win The War,” concerning flour production and sale in Tennessee, the state food administrator calls for the cooperation of the local county administrators in order to enforce regulation of flour sale.\textsuperscript{21} So the Food Administration was not just a national government organization, but also a local government organization with policies specific for certain regions in the United States. The Food Administration pledged that certain resources were the source of winning the war. “Corn Will Will Democracy’s War,” titled an article in Martin’s newspaper April 8th, 1918 stating that “Now however, the cereal is reaching the millers and consumers. In the meantime the nation’s surplus wheat has been sent to Europe.”\textsuperscript{22} The Food Administration was behind the organization of goods produced and shipped statewide for reasons of preventing shortages, such as with wheat and corn in order to aid in troops and allies abroad.

John Harcourt Alexander Morgan was the state of Tennessee’s food administrator during World War One. Morgan was from Ontario, Canada and in 1905 was a professor of entomology and zoology until he became the Dean of the School of Agriculture in 1914 at the University of Tennessee at Knoxville.\textsuperscript{23} Head of the Food Administration Herbert Hoover appointed statewide administrators in early 1917, who would serve to promote the policies under the Food Administration as head over regional administrators. Hoover discusses the objectives of the Administration as, “To stimulate production by every device, for our ultimate success would depend as much on the farmer
As a food administrator of Tennessee, Morgan enforced the objectives of the Food Administration, which can be seen in many newspaper articles. For example, an article titled “Let The Soldiers Have Your Flour”, published in the Martin Mail April of 1917, that states the county administrators and federal food administrator, Morgan, employ the people of Tennessee to give up all of the wheat flour that they can to the government for the military to use. Morgan states in the article, “The people of Tennessee can spare from their stocks of flour, I am sure, a carload or two for our government in this crisis, without making a very great sacrifice.” There was not just control over wheat flour, but also other products of agriculture as well. There were strategic policies that were made by the Food Administration to prevent shortages and protect the profits of farmers. Morgan addressed in another article on April 1917 about the suspension of poultry dealing between February 11th and April 19th, which was restricted for the purpose of egg supplies, in which they prohibited killing or selling of hens that could produce eggs. Harcourt Morgan was significant to the Food Administration as he served the purpose of ensuring the objectives directly under the national administration throughout the state of Tennessee, in which Hoover could not enforce from a national level.

The state administrators of the Food Administration worked to promote the rationing, conservation, and cultivation of foodstuff during the war, but the propaganda that accompanied the Food Administration’s efforts was also present all over the nation, including in Tennessee. There were distributions of posters that advertised for conservation. For example one claimed “Blood or bread Others are giving their blood - You will shorten the war - save life, if you eat only what you need, and waste nothing” that was published nationally in Forbes by the Food Administration in 1917. At the same time there were local distributions of posters such as “The World Cry Food! Cultivate the Soil” printed in The Martin Mail April 15th, 1917. Both of these posters are examples of the fight to conserve food and increase production. In West Tennessee there is not just a national cry to save, but also a local one, which adds to the war being a call for help from everyone, not just certain areas. Part of the significance of the Food Administration was to work to organize production
and aid in sending food abroad to soldiers and allies, but also enforce American patriotism as a form of fighting on the domestic front. Author, Cecilia Gowdy-Wygant states, “Though Hoover was an international businessman before the war, his efforts at relieving global hunger established an identity for American as a leader in the distribution of food.” The American goal was to protect its people at home during the war, as well as those overseas, in which the Food Administration became a leading benefactor of patriotism in the United States during WWI.

Farmers during the First World Was in 1917 and 1918 worked with local and state commissions in production of food. The Food Administration worked to organize foodstuff during later parts of the war, but Farmers in the United States, especially in Tennessee, worked to provide food for the home front, as customary, but also worked to increase cultivation for the purpose of shipping overseas.

Since farming was the source of food and food was a vital aspect of wartime, farmers were the base of importance to the home front of World War One. The struggles some farmers faced were to fully dedicate their time to the fields in place of getting drafted into the war. The Herold-Democrat was the Trenton (Gibson County) Tennessee Newspaper during the First World War and on April 25th, 1918 a short article was published concerning farmers in the area. “All men who are in Class One and are entitled to be deferred on account of farming will immediately make affidavit that they are completely, assiduously and honestly engaged in planting and making a crop.”

The call for affidavits from farmers was not just present in Gibson County, but in Dresden as well, which can be seen in the Dresden Enterprise posted April 26th, 1918 just a day later. The article states that, “a new draft of about 90,000 men per month will be called during the remainder of this year…” which then explains the necessity of farmers and farm boys to fill out affidavits on if they are completely engaged in all farming activities. Fighting for the war was not just done overseas by the soldiers, but also on the home front by farmers working to provide resources at home and in Europe.

Farming was an essential aspect of food source in Tennessee, so during the war, grain became the major crop to be planted. The Dresden Enterprise’s article on wheat was published in April 1918 claiming, “Cooperating with the state and national departments of agriculture, the Food
Administration in Tennessee is now in the midst of its big drive to stimulate an increase in production of food commodities during the coming season.” The departments of agriculture worked with the state and national government in order to report on production, which shows the significance farming created under the government during the First World War. The Food Administration depended greatly on state and local farmers for produce and grain especially. Hoover states in his memoir of the Food Administration during 1917-1919, “The third policy determination was to stimulate farm production by every device, for our ultimate success would depend as much upon the farmer as upon reduction of consumption.” The U.S. government depended on farming, and in Tennessee there is a much more narrow view of the importance of agriculture and the work of local farmers during the war.

American women worked on the home front as well as farmers for the food effort during the war, but struggled with separate issues concerning food conservation. As a vital effort to not only save food, women learned how to cook without and take part in organized women’s committees dedicated to the war effort at home. According to Ida Clarke, “Known in history as “The Volunteer State,” Tennessee has more than lived up to her name, as far as the women are concerned, in the world war of 1917.” The family structure during the time of WWI put women in the kitchen, making meals for their families without using certain ingredients, as well as using rations of popular items such as wheat and sugar for cooking. As Clarke states, “The mother in the kitchen, alone with her conscience and her memories, became a food administrator in her own right.” Having to use rations of goods was common during wartime, but for women, it was a struggle to substitute her meals.

Portion sizes and diets were a concern for women when cooking for their families when rationing on certain goods became harder to cook normally. Housewives were asked to conserve common goods for cooking and baking such as wheat, fat, sugar, and meats, which many needed help in finding ways to make recipes by avoiding or cutting portions of these items. The diet of many of these meals were either wheat-less or meatless. In Tennessee, seen in the Weakley county
newspaper April 8th, 1917, “Corn bread—using corn meal entirely is gaining a greater popularity than ever before. Housewives are coming to realize that every pound of wheat saved in American means a pound of wheat released for shipment...” The article promoted the use of corn to replace wheat based recipes, which changed the diet and portion sizes of meals for families during the war. Women could no longer cook more than needed each meal which was a patriotic sacrifice made on the home front as an effort to aid in the soldiers and hunger overseas.

With the alterations made to the portions and ingredients of many meals in American based diets during 1917 through the end of the war, Women worked to create new recipes by leaving out, cutting down, or using substitutions in cooking. Substitutions posed an issue in not only the taste and cost of the food, but in the added effort as well. Harriet Stanton Blatch wrote on women in the First World War in Mobilizing Women Power, which she points out that articles women read only consider the cost and effectiveness of substitution in food, but not how it requires more time and labor to prepare. The cost of substitution was seemingly cheaper, but the amount of time and work put into each meal was an additive to the sacrifice many housewives made in their kitchens. There were some useful resources women had access to in order to save some time and effort. Housewives did have some help from the directions of some books, magazines, and classes, such as during WWI were guided by books, such as Food That Will Win the War and How to Cook Them published by C. Houston and Alberta Goudiss in 1918. Many of the items listed under the meals in the published menus used wheat-based ingredient but were substituted with cornmeal to effectively conserve wheat during World War One. Books such as, Food That Will Win the War and How to Cook Them. contained many recipes and ways to get around cooking without certain ingredients in order to aid in the war effort. The collection of recipes by Goudiss reflected the School of Modern Cookery classes that were offered during the war and were backed by the U.S. Food Administration. The influence of government backed programs, through classes and books containing information on rationing and substitution, shows the major plight in conservation of food on the home front. Even in Tennessee, classes were offered for women in cities all over, including
The significance of altering recipes and the dedication of women to sacrifice commonly used items in many meals, the endeavor created a sense of American identity in women as their duty to feed their family. “Of our men we ask their lives; Of ourselves, a little less food” The sacrifice was seen as the least effort compared to fighting in combat away from home, but the common use of guilt as a way to mobilize an effort from women was definitely utilized by the national and local government to promote conservation.

Outside the kitchen, women also organized in committees to join together in the wartime conservation effort. Women’s committees put on hold or redirected their previous political endeavors to focus on organization of foodstuff. Cecilia Gowdy-Wygnant argues in Cultivating Victory, that the Women’s Suffrage movement going on in America at the time was unpatriotic, since women were more concerned with gaining political stability instead of focusing on their war duties to cultivate food. Many Women during WWI dealt with the issue of focusing their efforts for the war instead of movements outside of relief. Mrs. Alex Caldwell, who was the chairman for the Food Conservation commission under the Woman’s Committee called attention to the “food pledge campaign.” The Woman’s Committee was a national commission that worked in many areas during the war, but also in conservation of foodstuff statewide under the government. Expanding on local women’s commissions during the war on the home front, nationally and locally, such as in Tennessee, canning was another method used by communities of women. Gowdy-Wygnant argues that Americans used “gardening and cultivation as a tool for victory like no other nation during the First World War.”

A Mrs. Tom Mitchell, a 36 year old woman from Dresden, died at her home after a long day of canning and then in her garden early August of 1918. The fact that it was mentioned Mrs. Mitchell was canning all day before going out to her garden where she fell ill shows a sense of patriotic duty women upheld during wartime. Women’s wartime tasks remained in the kitchen or in the garden, serving their nation at a time of need. Clarke mentions a woman in Tennessee who placed her own canner in the middle of her garden where she also hosted canning sessions with the community every
Thursday during the season. Such efforts were aimed towards the use of canning vegetables and fruits in what were called Victory Gardens. Clarke also states, “Every community [in Tennessee] had its canning centers where women of the neighborhood brought their garden stuff to be conserved. The amount of canning during the war was significant, as preservation was essential in utilizing as much cultivated produce from the garden as much as possible to store individually, locally, or to send overseas. In Dresden August, 1918 under the local newspaper’s “Live Farm Facts For Tennesseans” stated, “Southern girls, members of canning clubs, put up last year 8,882 containers filled with products from the land they cultivated. The values of these canned products amount to $1,511,048.”

The use of Victory Gardens to cultivate food for the home front, were also widely used to can, since gardens were seen as a method to control conservation.

Women during WWI on the American home front held many duties concerning food production and organization in the kitchen, in local or national organizations, as well as through community canning, which all can be seen in West Tennessee during the later parts of the war. The efforts of providing foodstuff overseas shifted from moral motivations in aiding other countries, such as Belgium and northern France, to patriotic motivations with the entrance of the United States into WWI in early 1917. There was more state and local involvement in conservation of provisions. The commitment of Tennessee, specifically the western part of the state, shows the influence of the government programs on local communities during the war.

Hoover’s domestic program of relief for Belgium and northern France starting in 1914 was a starting point in America’s contribution to Europe which grew into a more nationwide effort of relief in 1917 and 1918. Conservation was a key part in aiding in the war, which involved organization on the home front, such as in Tennessee where agriculture was a huge part of the economy. The urge to conserve and cultivate more was the goal of organization on the home front. The creation of the National Food Administration under President Woodrow Wilson appointed Herbert Hoover as head in order to organize states under this government program to conserve food and ship provisions overseas.

Tennessee’s Food Administration under John Harcourt Alexander Morgan worked with other
departments in the production, organization, and transportation of provisions at a state level. The connection between the national government and the state can be viewed through the Food Administration and its propaganda urging people to do their part at home for the war. Federal policies were seen in west Tennessee through newspaper articles published in Trenton, Martin, and Dresden in 1917 and 1918, some provided by the federal Food Administration and some by the state administrator.

Farmers in west Tennessee worked with the Food Administration through the Department of Agriculture and local county administrators to provide the needed food for cultivation during the war, which was mainly wheat. Wheat was such a vital resource that conservation of this product was widely advertised through the use of polices calling for wheat-less days and meals so more could be provided to soldiers fighting in the war. Along with conservation, many meals had to be altered to fit the rations or produce provided by Victory Gardens in the household. Women took on a challenge in substituting ingredients in recipes, which was more time consuming and required more effort. Many organizations for conservation provided books, magazines, classes, all including recipes and instructions on how to substitute and buy groceries using the allotted amount of provisions, along with what was grown in the garden. Women in Tennessee, as well as nationwide, worked in canning as a way to utilize the garden for the war effort on the home front. West Tennessee made many contributions to the national wartime plight in conservation of food. The significance of the Food Administration was not only in organizing provisions on the home front, but in collaboration with states, such as Tennessee, which protected the American identity in aiding other nations and American soldiers during WWI. The American identity developed from ethical means into patriotic motivations, which can be seen in west Tennessee as a collaboration of local efforts.
ENDNOTES

1. Herbert Hoover, *Herbert Hoover: An American Epic. The Relief of Belgium and Northern France 1914-1930* (Chicago: Henry Regnery Co., 1959), 163. Rotterdam, Belgium was the main source of Hoover’s relief program during WWI.

2. Ida Clyde Clarke, *American Women and the World War* (New York: D. Appleton And Co., 1918), 387. Clarke compiled all of her information during the war and published this book while the war was still going on, which shows the influence her research had on viewing women politically through this time period.


5. Ibid., 78.


13. Clarke, 387.


17. Ibid, November 1918.


19. Ibid, xii.


21. Ibid, April 1918.


26. Ibid.
27. Ibid; a different article on the same page.


30. Gowdy-Wygnant, 68.

31. Trenton Herold-Gazette, April 1918.


35. Clarke, 386.

36. Ibid, 62.


42. Clarke, 387.

43. C. Houston Goudiss and Alberta Goudiss, 119.

44. Gowdy-Wygnant, 57.

45. Clarke, 388.


48. Clarke, 387.

49. Ibid.

Bibliography

This primary source concerns less about food conservation, but has a lot of information on the work of women during the war and the political movements of women to turn normal political concerns into concerns for the war effort.

As a primary source, Clarke gives detailed information on women during WWI and the efforts made not only nationally, but statewide as well. There is a lot of information on the national Woman’s Committee, but especially details on Tennessee women during the war. Clarke’s book shows the perspective of women during the war and the efforts made through organizations and political movements, including in food conservation.

This poster provides significant information on the use of patriotism by the Food Administration in order to promote conservation of food during WWI on the home front. This poster was shown nationwide which is significant in showing the influence of the Food Administration in states.

This book was published during WWI and contains a lot of recipes developed by a program dedicated to aiding women on how to cook with substitutions and rations. This was vital for women during WWI since it provided women with a guide to feed their families with ingredients close to the original.

This source contains a lot of primary sources in it even though it was written decades after WWI. Hoover puts many documents and letters into context while discussing the relief program of Belgium and northern France. This source is important in looking at the organization before the U.S. entered WWI, as well as the development of the Food Administration with detailed estimates of food shipments by quantity.

Hoover’s memoirs of the Food Administration during WWI explains its development and the purpose of this government program in aiding in the war effort on the home front to provide for soldiers and other nations in Europe. Hoover’s account of the Food Administration is considered a secondary source since it was written decades after the war, as was his book on Belgium and northern France relief.

This website gives a lot of information on the type of menu a typical housewife would make during WWI which contained meals made without wheat. There is also a picture of a wheatless day menu that shows what sacrifices families on the home front made in the wartime effort of conservation. The page also provides information on the role of
housewives during WWI on the home front and the struggle to feed the family with less common provisions and use substitutions.

This newspaper article contains information on the affidavit’s farmers were required to fill out in order to prevent being drafted. This article is good information on the importance of farmers on the home front during WWI.

This poster is a primary source that shows the patriotism the Food Administration used in order to gain the support of the nation in an effort to conserve food on the home front during WWI. Published as a national poster, the poster was also published all over the country, showing the influence of the Food Administration within the states at a local level.

These newspaper articles are vital to researching the efforts of food conservation on a local level in the United States, focusing on Tennessee. There is a lot of information that can be placed in context and utilized in comparison with other newspapers during the same time. There are multiple issues of the newspaper with articles dating from March 1917-August 1918.

These newspaper articles are vital to researching the efforts of food conservation on a local level in the United States, focusing on Tennessee. There is a lot of information that can be placed in context and utilized in comparison with other newspapers during the same time. There are multiple issues of the newspaper with articles dating from April-August 1918.

This website provided information on the use of the Food Administration's policies concerning conservation of wheat. Wheat was one of the most important provision during WWI to be conserved, so showing the lengths the administrators took to promote and enforce the policies of wheat-less days and meals was significant.

The inventory of the Food Administrations archives were documented as secondary sources, but include vital information on the many other administrations that worked with conservation and transportation of provisions during WWI.

SECONDARY SOURCES
One of the most significant secondary sources used for looking at the efforts of food conservation on the home front topically. Gowdy-Wygnant gives vast analysis on the
importance of food conservation, women in the war, the Food Administration, and Victory Gardens in the United States during WWI.

Klein writes about the accomplishments of Harcourt Morgan, as well as his position as head of the Food Administration in Tennessee. Morgan was most famously known for his contributions for the New Deal, but he was president of the University of Tennessee in Knoxville and was initially head of the agriculture department there. Morgan’s extensive knowledge of etymology was influential in his position working under the Food Administration.