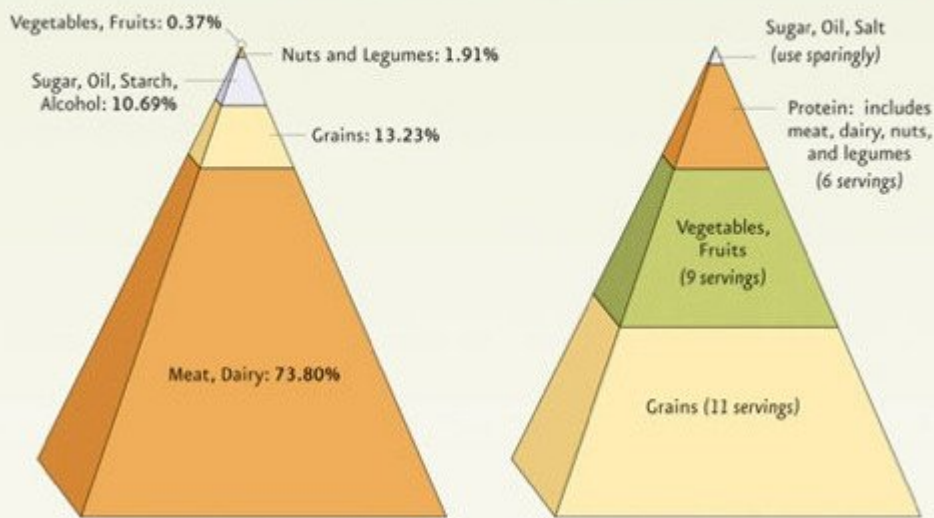


# Why Does a Salad Cost More Than a Big Mac?

Federal Subsidies for Food Production, 1995-2005\*

Federal Nutrition Recommendations



## Why A Salad Costs More Than A Big Mac

Mon, 03/08/2010 - 11:04 -- Roger Doiron

This graphic tells the story about as well as Micheal Pollan could. It's all about the priorities we set as a society. If we support subsidizing corn and soybeans in order to feed them to cows (and Cargill) to make cheap burgers or to Coca-Cola to make cheap soft drinks, we shouldn't be too shocked when people buy those cheap foods and feed them to their families, especially in the current economy when some people are having to choose between food, healthcare, and heating oil. In our tea-party flavored times, some might argue that government shouldn't have a role in righting the balance between cheap, unhealthy foods and more expensive, healthy ones, but such thinking ignores the role that federal policy already plays in food pricing. Just for the sake of flexing your creative thinking muscles, imagine if we flipped our priorities as a society and made the healthiest foods the easiest and cheapest ones to access? Food for thought.

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