Fed Up: The High Costs of Cheap Food (Hardback)

By Dale F. Slongwhite

University Press of Florida, United States, 2014. Hardback. Condition: New. Language: English . Brand New Book. One farmworker tells of the soil that would bite him, but that was the chemicals burning his skin. Other labourers developed lupus, asthma, diabetes, kidney failure, or suffered myriad symptoms with no clear diagnosis. Some miscarried or had children with genetic defects while others developed cancer.In Fed Up, Dale Slongwhite collects the nearly inconceivable and chilling oral histories of African American farmworkers whose lives, and those of their families, were forever altered by one of the most horrific pesticide exposure incidents in United States history.For decades, the farms around Lake Apopka, Florida s third largest lake, were sprayed with chemicals ranging from the now-banned DDT to toxaphene. Among the most productive farmlands in America, the fields were doused with organochlorine pesticides, also known as persistent organic pollutants; the once-clear waters of the lake turned pea green; birds, alligators, and fish died at alarming rates; and still the farmworkers planted, harvested, packed, and shipped produce all over the country, enduring scorching sun, snakes, rats, injuries, substandard housing, low wages, and the endocrine disruptors dropped by crop dusters.Eventually, state and federal dollars were allocated to buy...

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