



Café Humana

**DUTCHESS DAY SCHOOL
 ECOLOGY CLUB
 COSTA RICAN COFFEE FUNDRAISER
 ORDER FORM**

	MEDIUM ROAST GROUND	MEDIUM ROAST BEAN	DARK ROAST GROUND	DARK ROAST BEAN	DECAF GROUND	DECAF BEAN	TOTAL BAGS
# OF BAGS							
TOTAL PURCHASE	X \$11.00 PER BAG	X \$11.00 PER BAG	X \$11.00 PER BAG	X \$11.00 PER BAG	X \$11.50 PER BAG	X 11.50 PER BAG	TOTAL \$

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY _____

STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE: _____

EMAIL: _____

All orders will be delivered to Dutchess Day School for pick-up unless otherwise arranged.
 Payment can be made in cash or check. All checks should be made out to Nevill Smythe (coffee purchaser) and returned with this form to the attention Diane Duffus at Dutchess Day School. Questions can be directed to Nevill at 845-452-6588 or nsmythe@hvc.rr.com.
 Thank you for your order.

What's So Special About Organic, Shade Grown and Fair Trade? Sustainability in a Nutshell

Organic

Until about 30 years ago, coffee had been organically cultivated and shade grown in its 1600 year history as food-crop. In the last three decades however, artificial methods of production have boosted the output of regular farms to nearly four times what they could have done naturally. This was accomplished by intensive pesticide and chemical fertilizer use, combined with new hybrids of plants, cross-bred to tolerate full-sun and chemical-intensive production. The unfortunate impact this has on farming communities, as well as the regional and global environments, has become devastatingly clear. Some of the most immediate environmental impacts are polluted water supplies, accidental poisonings of farmers not properly educated in handling such chemicals, and toxic runoffs that affect down-stream communities. Also impacted are local animal habitats and ultimately, our oceans (This doesn't include the effects of producing these chemicals. Goggle "Bhopal Union Carbide" for an extreme, though realistic consideration of that). Amplify these impacts by the deep and lasting effects of clear-cutting tropical rainforest and, though just skimming the surface, we immediately see a practice that is unacceptably damaging to life on earth. In a word, this method of farming is ecologically *un*-sustainable. Eventually it will lead to a collapse of the systems it relies on to sustain it. Organic farming means an end to all of this and a return to the way coffee was meant to grow.

Shade Grown

With new strains of coffee plants created to tolerate full sun, massive amounts of the Earth's rainforests have been clear-cut to make way for coffee plantations. Already under heavy stress from timber, grazing and other agricultural industries, these forests continue to disappear at an alarming rate. Not only did these vast forests once do a much better job of naturally cleansing our atmosphere – acting as our planets lungs – their disappearance is accelerating the extinction of a broad spectrum of living things. Shade grown farms not only average 95% more wildlife than their sunny counterparts; they actually contribute to successful organic farming. They provide natural mulching and fertilization of the soil reduces erosion and creates a healthy ecosystem that keeps pests in check through natural predation. In addition, because shade grown coffee ripens more slowly, the flavor and overall quality is much better than that of full sun varieties.

“Fair Trade”

Those same technological advances that boosted production at great costs to the environment and farmers' health have proven to be devastating financially as well – at least for the farmers. Unprecedented outputs, combined with the massive expansion of the industry to Southeast Asia (and the resulting loss of millions of acres of forest there), have brought the selling price for coffee below that of even producing it for many farmers. In Costa Rica for instance, the average cost of simply producing organic coffee is approximately \$1.00 per pound. Prevailing market rates in the last decade (as low as \$.50/lb) have left many farmers far short of covering even the most basic expenses. Fair trade simply means that everyone involved in any given market is compensated to such an extent that no one ends up on the losing end of the deal. In the coffee world, this has been distilled down to a few numbers that serve as standards which farmers should be paid to be considered “fair” and just. Currently those numbers are roughly \$1.31 and \$1.46 per pound (for regular and organic respectively.) All of our growers are either certified Fair Trade or dealt with on a personal basis (La Amistad) and paid at or above Fair Trade prices.

Quality

Refocusing farmers on the production of truly quality beans is the missing link in many discussions of sustainability. Meeting all of the aforementioned standards will mean nothing in the long term if our farmers cannot justify the increased cost of their coffee by providing exceptional quality. Coffee is moving on a parallel course to wine and other fine foods and spices as people learn to appreciate regional and varietal differences. This is raising three standards of what a “gourmet” coffee *should* mean. As farmers blend the best of science and good old-fashioned artisanship their exceptional coffees are rewarded with exceptional prices. In addition to great pride, this quality will provide insulation from the volatile nature of the commodity market used to trade inferior coffees. Bringing all of these concepts to bear on coffee production creates a *sustainable* situation that not only greatly reduces the destruction of the world's most ecologically rich areas but it can actually restore and enrich them. Over 40% of the world's rainforests have been lost to unsustainable practices and your choice *can* make a difference. As a country, America consumes about one-fifth of the world's annual coffee production – a commodity whose global value is second only to petroleum. By purchasing and offering a coffee grown to meet our standards, you are making your voice heard in the most direct and effective manner possible – by creating demand. On behalf of our farmers, we'd like to thank you for your voice.