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Michelle Obama, Yelp CEO and PETA President among TheDailyMeal's Second Annual 50 Most Powerful People in Food

New York, NY (January 18, 2012)—From the chefs and restaurateurs who introduce us to new culinary notions and innovative ingredients, to the agribusiness moguls who choose how and what to grow, to the governmental agency heads who oversee our food safety, [TheDailyMeal](http://www.thedaily meal.com) presents its second annual ranking of **America's 50 Most Powerful People in Food**. The list celebrates tastemakers (*literally*) from the culinary sphere, as well as key figures from more unexpected fields like media, policy and business, who influence our palates daily.

"These are people who have the ability to change the landscape of the food world, influencing what gets produced and how we consume it," said Colman Andrews, editorial director, TheDailyMeal. "Our list has evolved since last year. Some people have fallen off the list or moved up or down, and some new key figures have been added. You might not recognize all the names—sometimes CEOs wield more might than culinary celebrities—but they all definitely affect the way we eat."

Among America's 50 Most Powerful People in Food:

- **Chefs Grant Achatz (24), Alice Waters (26), Thomas Keller (31), and Tom Colicchio (38)**
- **Thomas Vilsack (2):** Secretary of the U.S. Department of Agriculture
- **Jeremy Stoppelman (3):** Yelp Co-founder and Chief Executive Officer
- **Michelle Obama (8):** First Lady of the United States and Dietary Activist
- **David Kirchoff (16):** Chief Executive Officer of Weight Watchers International
- **Julie Packard (20):** Executive Director and Vice Chairman of Monterey Bay Aquarium
- **Vicki B. Escarra (35):** President and Chief Executive Officer, Feeding America
- **Ingrid Newkirk (42):** President and Co-Founder of People for Ethical Treatment of Animals
- **Will Allen (50):** Founder and CEO of Growing Power

The full list can be found at <http://www.thedaily meal.com/50-most-powerful-food-folk-america>.

About The Daily Meal

[The Daily Meal](http://www.thedaily meal.com) covers all things food and drink, creating a complete epicurean experience for cooks, food lovers, wine, beer and spirit connoisseurs, discerning diners and everyone in-between. Comprised of original content and video from Award winning editors, industry insiders, tastemakers and the user community, features range across the site's multiple channels: Cook, Eat/Dine, Drink, Travel, Entertain, Best Recipes, Holidays, Lists and Community. The Daily Meal also produces much-anticipated annual reports including the 50 Most Powerful People in Food, America's Most Successful Chefs, 101 Best Restaurants in America and 150 Best Bars in America. Additionally, The Daily Meal Shop, an online cookware store, offers over 7,000 kitchenware and specialty foods tailored specifically to The Daily Meal's hungry following of savvy food enthusiasts. Helmed by editorial director Colman Andrews, The Daily Meal is one of the largest food sites on the Web and the first property of Spanfeller Media Group, founded by Jim Spanfeller. Visit The Daily Meal on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/thedaily meal); follow us on [Twitter](https://twitter.com/thedaily meal).