**Activity: Supply Chain Losses** Name\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

In this activity, you will be given two bowls and some Cheerios. Follow the steps below:

1. Label one bowl “Food Bin” and the other bowl “Trash Bin”.
2. Fill the Food Bin approximately half full of Cheerios. Count the number of Cheerios in the Food Bin and write that in the appropriate place in the table below.
3. Using the information for Grain Products from the graph provided on the next page, calculate ratios to determine the representative number of cheerios lost at each step in the supply chain. (hint: Remember that as you go through the supply chain, your total of Cheerios will change, so you must calculate your ratios based on the current number of Cheerios in the Food Bin on that step).

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Supply Chain Step** | **Number of Cheerios removed at this step do to supply chain losses** | **Total number of Cheerios in Trash Bin** | **Total Number of Cheerios remaining in Food Bin** |
| Starting point | - | - |  |
| Step 1: Production |  |  |  |
| Step 2: Postharvest, Handling & Storage |  |  |  |
| Step 3: Processing & Packaging |  |  |  |
| Step 4: Distribution &  Retail |  |  |  |
| Step 5: Consumer |  |  |  |

Now compare the number of Cheerios in left in your Food Bin with the number in the Trash Bin to answer the following questions:

1. What percentage of Cheerios was lost in the supply chain?

2. Notice that in both Step 1 and Step 4, the supply chain losses were 2%. Did you remove the

same number of Cheerios from the Food Bin in each step? Why or why not?

3. Bonus Question: What does supply chain losses have to do with food prices and hunger?



Source: NRDC’s Report, *Wasted: How America is Losing up to 40% of its Food from Farm to Fork to Landfill.* Found at http://www.nrdc.org/food/files/wasted-food-ip.pdf