



Left in the Dust?

Monsanto's propaganda machine churns out a steady stream of lies and misinformation. One of its most dishonest talking points is that the world will go hungry if we stop growing GMO crops, which oh-by-the-way can't be grown without massive amounts of poisonous chemicals.

In the U.S. alone, 13.1 million children under 18 don't have consistent access to enough food, according to the USDA. That number will soar, along with soaring temperatures, if we don't stop degrading and poisoning our soil and water, some scientists warn.

An article on *Mercola.com* cites research by bio-ethicist George Dvorsky, who warns that modern industrial agriculture puts us at risk of a Depression-style dust bowl: "Researchers Michael Glotter, Ph.D. and Joshua Elliot, Ph.D., from the University of Chicago, ran computer simulations to predict the effects of a Dust Bowl-like drought on today's maize, soy and wheat crops. 'We expected to find the system much more resilient because 30% of production is now irrigated in the U.S., and because we've abandoned corn production in more severely drought-stricken places such as Oklahoma and west Texas,' noted Elliott in a press release. "But we found the opposite: The system was just as sensitive to drought and heat as it was in the 1930s," Dvorsky writes."

Our best way out of this mess? Shift to regenerative practices that stop depleting our soil and fresh water supplies, and start sequestering carbon in the soil. Countries that commit to making this transition will be better prepared to deal with global warming. Those that don't will be left in the dust. orgcns.org/2jmr6xA

Trouble in Tucson

A growing number of citizens in Tucson, are locked in a heated battle with Monsanto and some local elected officials. Pima County Administrator Chuck Huckelberry negotiated a back-room deal that allowed Monsanto to buy 155 acres of farmland outside of Tucson. The deal included the promise of a big tax break for Monsanto, which plans to build a research and development facility on the land, and grow test plots of experimental seeds and GMO crops.

A lot of people don't like the way the deal was handled. And they don't want more of Monsanto's dirty, toxic chemicals fouling up the area's farmlands. It's amazing what these activists have accomplished so far, including rallying hundreds to attend public meetings and getting a final vote on the project delayed. But the vote is set for Feb. 21, and there's still a lot of work to be done.

If you live in Tucson, you can help by attending meetings, writing letters to the editor, calling the Pima County Supervisors and signing petitions. Please don't contact Pima County Supervisors unless you live there—phone calls from outside their jurisdictions could backfire. Find numbers here: orgcns.org/2jO7iGs

You don't need to live in Arizona, to help out in other ways. Do you know an attorney licensed in Arizona, who might provide pro bono legal advice to help stall or defeat Monsanto's project? Do you have media skills you can share? Want to help call Tucson-area residents to ask them to attend meetings? Email kaare@organicconsumers.org. Meanwhile, you can stay on top of Tucson-Monsanto developments here. Take Action: orgcns.org/2i9RBfr

GMO? NO!

DDT Déjà Vu?

Roundup is so ubiquitous that some scientists refer to it as the new DDT. DDT, despite mounting scientific evidence against its use, stayed on the market for decades. Like Roundup, DDT was proclaimed "perfectly safe" by chemical companies and government regulators. Until it wasn't. In the early 1960s, government regulators finally banned most uses of DDT—only after millions had already developed diseases like cancer, infertility, liver and nervous system damage. 40 years after it was taken off the market, we haven't yet been able to completely eradicate it from the environment. Have we learned nothing? Following the declaration of a scientific panel of the World Health Organization in 2016 that Roundup (active ingredient glyphosate) likely causes cancer, compounded by numerous studies linking Monsanto's top-selling herbicide to hormone disruption, birth defects, kidney damage, and other diseases, the question we should ask today is not whether we need more proof that Monsanto is deliberately poisoning us for profit, aided and abetted by indentured scientists, media hacks, and politicians—but how do we drive Monsanto's Roundup and Roundup-tainted foods off the market? orgcns.org/2jFgtvH

Testing, Testing... 1, 2, 3

Is Glyphosate in your body? Health Research Institute (HRI) is offering glyphosate testing to consumers. For \$99, HRI's lab will test your urine sample for glyphosate and AMPA, a metabolite of glyphosate. (Your liver is in charge of breaking down glyphosate into its metabolite—but as a recent study suggests, making your liver break down glyphosate and process its metabolites may be damaging your liver). How would you test positive for glyphosate if you're not eating GMO foods? Because glyphosate may be in your drinking water. Or on your local park, or golf course, or your kids' school playground, if those areas are sprayed with Monsanto's Roundup. And glyphosate isn't just sprayed on GMO crops. It's used to dry out other crops, like oats, to make harvesting easier. Just because you're eating "non-GMO" doesn't mean you're eating "glyphosate-free." To find out if glyphosate is lurking in your body, order the test from HRI. They'll send you a sample collection kit, along with instruction on how to collect your urine and return it for testing. orgcns.org/2jOaYbg

Fatty Liver?

A study published in *Scientific Reports*, an online journal from the publishers of *Nature*, has shown that the glyphosate-based Roundup herbicide causes non-alcoholic fatty liver disease (NAFLD) in rats at very low doses. The new peer-reviewed study led by Dr. Michael Antoniou at King's College London describes the molecular composition of the livers of female rats administered with an extremely low dose of Roundup weed-killer over a 2-year period. The dose of glyphosate from the Roundup administered was thousands of times below what is permitted by regulators worldwide. The study revealed that these animals suffered from NAFLD.

NAFLD affects 25% of the US population. Risk factors include being overweight or obese, having diabetes, high cholesterol or high triglycerides in the blood. Rapid weight loss and poor eating habits also may lead to NAFLD. Some people develop NAFLD even if they do not have risk factors. The EPA, which was supposed to finish its 15-year review of glyphosate more than a year ago, is still twiddling its thumbs. The FDA won't test foods for glyphosate residue. The European Commission has also failed to act. A European Citizens Initiative has been launched, inviting the Commission "to propose to Member States a ban on glyphosate, to reform the pesticide approval procedure, and to set EU-wide mandatory reduction targets for pesticide use." orgcns.org/2jObFS9