



Sartorial Silliness

In announcing his pick last week for Secretary of Agriculture, Trump heaped predictable praise on Sonny Perdue, promising that the former governor of Georgia will “deliver big results for all Americans who earn their living off the land.”

We predict that Perdue will indeed deliver “big” results—but he’ll deliver them to his friends in Big Food and Big Ag, not to America’s rural farmers, and surely not to America’s consumers. For all the talk about sticking up for rural farmers and rural America, the plain fact is this: Perdue’s track record consistently reveals his support for corporate agribusiness—not small farmers or rural Americans. There are his aforementioned corporate campaign donations. And this—in 2009, Perdue signed a bill that blocked local communities in Georgia from regulating animal cruelty, worker safety and pollution related to factory farms. That’s hardly “looking out” for the little guy. Perdue may have impressed Trump by showing up for his job interview wearing a backpack and a tie with little tractors on it. But most farmers are smart enough to see through Perdue’s phony concern for rural farmers, no matter how he dresses it up. orgcns.org/2koRTEX

We’re Watching

If pro-torture Mike Pompeo can make it through Senate hearings to become head of the CIA, and Exxon CEO Rex Tillerson can seriously be considered for secretary of state, we aren’t optimistic about torpedoing Trump’s nominations for secretary of agriculture (Sonny Perdue) or EPA administrator (Scott Pruitt). But we still have to let our Senators know that we oppose these nominations. It’s all part of the new #ConsumerRevolution and #PoliticalRevolution that we all need to actively engage in. Ring the phones off the hook. Resist!

We need to watch very closely which Senators take a stand against Trump’s #SwampCabinet and which Senators don’t. So that when election time rolls around again, we can actively campaign against the lawmakers who voted against everything we stand for—and replace them with the kind of revolutionary candidates we’ll need to climb our way back out of Trump’s swamp.

If Perdue becomes our next secretary of agriculture, we can look for the USDA to rubber stamp every GMO and pesticide Monsanto comes up with. Ditto for Pruitt, the self-professed climate-denying defender of pesticides.

Please read the articles below and identify the issues you care most about. Then call your Senators and explain, in personal terms, why you oppose the nominations of Perdue and Pruitt. Take Action: Call your Senators. Tell them you expect them to vote NO on Sonny Perdue for secretary of agriculture, and NO on Scott Pruitt for EPA administrator. Tell them that you’ll be watching their vote and if they vote YES you’ll work to boot them out of Congress in the next election. orgcns.org/2jkdmy Dial 888-907-9957 to be connected to your U.S. Senators

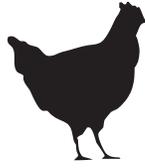
Or text SWAMP to 97779

Look up your Senator’s phone number: orgcns.org/2k7qpoH

Tweet your Senator: orgcns.org/2jkAuTC

Squeezing Farmers

The next time you hear Trump, or Sonny Perdue (the multi-millionaire agribusiness tycoon he’s tapped to be his secretary of agriculture) rave about how they will “protect rural farmers and American agriculture,” remember these two stories.



Arkansas farmers Mitchel and Karen Crutchfield were driven into bankruptcy by a multi-national chicken producer.

West Virginia farmer Eric Hedrick is losing tens of thousands of dollars a month—and faces losing his family’s 400-acre farm—because of a Catch-22 contract he signed with a multi-national chicken producer.

“They will not pay you enough to pay your bills and raise your chickens.

The biggest thing that’s let us down is the government.” – Eric Hedrick

In December, the Obama Administration finally passed legislation to protect farmers like the Crutchfields and Hedrick—but it was an uphill battle, thanks to the lobbying efforts of companies like Tyson.

Now, we have “let’s roll back regulations” Sonny Perdue (not related to the founders of Perdue Farms) headed to the USDA. As the former governor of the country’s largest chicken-producing state, it’s a sure bet he’s already set his site on rolling back protections for chicken farmers—so he can protect the record-breaking profits of companies like Tyson. What can you do? Boycott the chicken producers who are bankrupting the farmers. The top four brands in the U.S. are Tyson, Pilgrim’s, Sanderson and Perdue. You can find the names of other big producers here. Instead, buy your chicken from your local farmers. Or check out more responsibly produced alternatives here: buyingpoultry.com

Watch *Under Contract: The Crutchfields*: youtu.be/safw2MvdaU4

Watch *Under Contract: Erik Hedrick*: youtu.be/eb1evSmri48

Mexico First!

A wall between Mexico and the U.S? Mass-scale deportations? Trade agreements renegotiated to give the U.S. the upper hand? Stigmatization of Latinos and the Spanish language? This is the new reality under Trump. Mexico’s people are fighting back—and asking their government to do the same.

On January 18, Mexico’s Alianza por la Salud Alimentaria (Food Safety Alliance) held a press conference to call on consumers, government and the industry to protect the national economy against the threats coming out of the Trump administration.

OCA’s Mexico-based consumer organization, La Asociación de Consumidores Orgánicos (ACO) helped organize the conference and contributed to a statement outlining actions that consumers, government officials and Mexican businesses should take to strengthen their own economy and protect their citizens. In their statement, the groups urged a collective and rational response to Trump’s threats in order to bring about a radical change to the national economic development model and to restore food sovereignty and food health. Mexico must take a leading role in the movement to fight back against Trump’s rage and hate toward the Mexican people, and to build support for Latin American solidarity, the groups said.

The Food Safety Alliance and ACO recommend that consumers buy local products to strengthen the local economy. Boycott U.S. companies that support the Trump platform. Organize more CSAs and food coops. orgcns.org/2jkrUVo

Radical Rules

The word “revolution” is popping up everywhere these days—including in our own blueprint for the next four years. But how do we make it happen? By thinking BIG. By getting creative. By being flexible. By fighting the “tyranny of the annoying. Because organizing loses when we retreat solely into tactics that protect us from being annoyed.” We hope you’ll pick up a copy of *Rules for Revolutionaries*. Because this is how we win. Buy *Rules for Revolutionaries*: orgcns.org/2jkrUVo