



## Under Your Skin?

Being the savvy, health-conscious food consumer you are, you probably aren't shopping in the GMO aisle of your favorite grocery store. But are you stocking your closet with clothes made from Monsanto's toxic GMO cotton?



It takes about one-third of a pound of toxic agricultural chemicals to produce one pound of cotton—the amount of cotton needed to make one t-shirt. Many of those chemicals, including glyphosate, are linked to cancer. Do you really want to wrap your body's largest organ, your skin, in cancer-causing chemicals? Seeing as those chemicals are absorbed into your body through your skin?

Chemical contamination is just one reason to care about wearing clothes made from GMO cotton—there are plenty of others, including environmental contamination, and the fact that most non-organic (and unfortunately, some organic) cotton clothing is made in sweatshops where workers, predominantly women, are not only under-paid, but also suffer from unsafe working conditions, physical, psychological and sexual abuse, 18-hour work shifts and other illegal labor practices.

The fashion industry, where toxic chemicals abound, promotes a toxic “fast fashion” culture designed to convince consumers that their self-worth depends largely on keeping up with the latest fashion. Can we as consumers clean up the fashion industry, by rejecting its message? And choosing a more conscious approach to buying clothes and textiles? [orgcns.org/2mmIb1N](http://orgcns.org/2mmIb1N)

## Unholy Alliances

The U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ), overseen by Attorney General Jeff Sessions, is set to review \$125 billion worth of proposed mega-mergers in the agribusiness sector, including deals between Bayer and Monsanto, Dow Chemical and DuPont and Syngenta and ChemChina. That's bad news.

A February 13, letter to Sessions, signed by nearly 325 farming, beekeeping, farmworker, religious, food safety, and conservation advocacy groups (including OCA) says the trio of proposed mergers “are each problematic on their own, with many likely negative impacts on farmers, businesses, workers, and consumers. When taken together, they pose the threat of major oligopolistic outcomes in the industries of farming inputs, research, development, and technology.”

Will Sessions heed those warnings? Or will he bow to Trump, who following a recent meeting with the CEOs of Monsanto and Bayer, signaled a thumbs up for the proposed mergers of two biotech giants? Instead of handing over more power to agribusiness corporations whose sole raison d'être is to sell massive quantities of poisons, the DOJ should stand up for farmers and consumers, not chemical companies. The future of agriculture—American and international—lies in working with nature, not against it, and in providing support for local, independent farmers who employ regenerative practices that produce abundant, nutrient-dense, chemical-free food, and strengthen local economies and communities. Take Action: [orgcns.org/2mtAUNN](http://orgcns.org/2mtAUNN)

## Sign Here!

Consumers have wised up to the evils of GMO foods... but Monsanto's GMOS aren't just in our foods. Only about 20% of all GMO crops in the U.S. are used to make (junk) food for humans—the other 80% go into animal feed, ethanol and cotton. Globally, the overwhelming majority of all cotton, much of it used to make cheap clothes, is GMO. By exercising our collective purchasing power, and using the power of boycotts, consumers can force corporations to transition from degenerative production methods that harm human health, degrade soils, pollute the environment, abuse animals, shift profits from small farmers to large corporations, destroy biodiversity, exploit “cheap labor” and promote global warming... to regenerative production methods that:

- improve human health • restore soil health • respect the environment
- treat animals humanely • reward responsible farmers • promote biodiversity
- treat/pay food and clothing workers fairly • combat global warming.

Take Action: [orgcns.org/2lGLTC4](http://orgcns.org/2lGLTC4)

## What's Next?

The second half of 2016 wasn't a great year for the food movement. Congress stripped states of the right to pass mandatory GMO labeling laws, then handed consumers a “fake” federal GMO labeling law. Then came the election of Trump, who has aligned himself with corporate interests, and shows no interest in protecting consumers, public health or the environment. What do we do next?

We **#resist**. And **#regenerate**. The food movement on its own just wasn't powerful enough to overcome Monsanto's resolve to keep labels off GMO foods. We need a more inclusive movement, united in its vision to protect consumers and the environment, to build stronger communities, stronger economies and a stronger democracy that works for all of us, not just corporations and the 1%. Response to our recent call to organize at the local and state levels, around strong **#ConsumerRevolution** and **#PoliticalRevolution** platforms, was overwhelming.

Because of the strong response from volunteers to hold regeneration meetups and house parties, and the need to provide the resources to help make these meetups and house parties successful, we're pushing out the date from March 20 to mid-April. If your plans for a March meeting are in place, go for it! But if you'd like more time, let's shoot for the third week in April—you may want your meeting to coincide with Earth Day, April 22. Download a flyer: [orgcns.org/2m46RsX](http://orgcns.org/2m46RsX) Sign up to host a regeneration meetup or house party: [orgcns.org/2m4ncho](http://orgcns.org/2m4ncho)

## Coming Soon!

As the market for organic and grassfed milk soars, so does the potential for brands to mislead consumers. The American Grassfed Association (AGA) has created new standards specifically for grassfed dairy products—standards that certifiers will soon begin using in order give consumers clarity when trying to sort through the often-confusing landscape of consumer product labeling. If your milk or butter is certified to AGA standards, it means the cows that produced those products were fed a strict diet based on open pasture, animal health and welfare, no antibiotics, no added hormones. Producers must consult regularly with veterinarians on their “written herd health plans.” If an animal becomes sick, and requires antibiotics, its milk can't be mixed with the other grassfed milk.

The new AGA standards are based on the simple premise that healthier cows produce dairy products that are healthier for humans. Launched last month and endorsed by OCA, the standards still in the implementation phase—so you won't see them on dairy products yet. But the AGA says look for them soon. [orgcns.org/2jI2bd4](http://orgcns.org/2jI2bd4)