



Show Up!

On March 26, an OCA staff member in New Jersey attended his Congressman's town hall meeting. He handed over a copy of our article on how Monsanto and the EPA may have colluded to bury the truth about Roundup herbicide, and asked his Congressman, Rep. Frank Pallone (D-NJ), to call for an investigation. On April 5, Rep. Pallone's office called our staffer back with this news: He, and some of his fellow members of the Energy and Commerce Committee sent a letter to the Committee's chair, Rep. Greg Walden (R-OR), asking for an investigation and to hold public hearings on several questions... including allegations that some EPA officials knowingly allowed Monsanto employees to ghostwrite scientific papers on glyphosate (the key ingredient in Roundup). This is big news. And proof that it pays, at least some of the time, to show up.

It is especially urgent that we all pressure Rep. Walden—even those of us who don't live in his district. And for those of you whose Republican Congress Members serve on the Energy and Commerce Committee, it's urgent that you call them, email them and set up meetings with them. (Here's the list of 31 Committee members: orgcns.org/2nOFdPV) It's worth noting that Rep. Pallone leads off his letter with a call to investigate whether CropLife America or Dow, maker of the herbicide chlorpyrifos, violated EPA policies or regulations to influence the EPA's latest decision to allow the continued use of the herbicide. Chlorpyrifos, according to the EPA's own scientists, causes neurological damage, especially to children. It's unconscionable that EPA officials would intentionally hide the fact that Roundup, sold widely in retail stores and labeled as "safe," causes cancer. Or that the EPA would sign off on a chemical known to cause brain damage in children. Can we stop corporate corruption of the EPA? We won't know, unless we ask.

Call Rep. Greg Walden: 202-225-6730 Tweet him @RepGregWalden
Need help organizing a meeting with your Congress Member? Email Alexis@organicconsumers.org. Is your Congress Member on the Energy and Commerce Committee? Find out, then call and tweet:

orgcns.org/2nOFdPV

Download the talking points for your calls and visits:

orgcns.org/2nOXxbv

Take Action: orgcns.org/2nOAYo4

Bad Outcomes

US Right to Know's Carey Gillam reported this week that researchers have found evidence that higher glyphosate levels in pregnant women correlated with significantly shorter pregnancies and with lower adjusted birth weights. From Gillam's article in the *Huffington Post*: "Researchers looking at exposure to the herbicide known as glyphosate, the key ingredient in Monsanto's Roundup branded herbicides, said they tested and tracked 69 expectant mothers and found that the presence of glyphosate levels in their bodily fluids correlated with unfavorable birth outcomes. The team is scheduled to present their findings on Thursday at a conference put on by the Children's Environmental Health Network in Washington, DC."

Paul Winchester, medical director of the neonatal intensive care unit at the Franciscan St. Francis Health system and professor of clinical pediatrics at Riley Hospital for Children in Indianapolis, Indiana, told Gillam that the newly reported data is a "huge" issue and that "Everyone should be concerned about this." orgcns.org/2nOATA6

Support us Right to Know's work: orgcns.org/2aYYTQo

On the Brink

One in five children in the world faces hunger. Yet food has never been cheaper. The production of all that cheap food is driving the world's iconic wildlife to the brink of extinction. In his book, *Dead Zone: Where the Wild Things Were*, Philip Lymbery reports on his two-year investigation into the caging and confinement of farm animals, and the destruction of wildlife habitats. The book isn't all gloom and doom—the book also reveals how there is "hope all around us." orgcns.org/2nOWAjs



No Thanks!

Advertisements with slogans like *Incredible Edible Egg*, *Pork: The Other White Meat*, *Beef: It's What's for Dinner*, and *Got Milk?* promote industries without ever mentioning a specific company or brand. Who pays for those ads? The money comes from Research & Promotion programs, commonly referred to as checkoff programs. Set up under the USDA, checkoff programs require producers of agricultural commodities to contribute a percentage of sales to the program, which in turn provides research and promotion, including ads, to help expand the market for products like meat, milk and eggs.

Now the USDA, with support from the Organic Trade Association (OTA), wants to establish a similar mandatory "checkoff" program for organic producers. Good idea? The Big Food corporations that are buying up organic brands (and calling a lot of the shots at OTA), say yes. But small organic producers and family farmers say that an organic checkoff program will be bad for them, and bad for consumers. orgcns.org/2nOv9Xc
Take Action By Midnight April 19: orgcns.org/2nciy4B
Or text 'NoCheckoff' to 97779 to sign the petition.

Dig In!

Ethan Soloviev is a founding team member of Terra Genesis, an international regenerative design consultancy. He helps create resilient and profitable businesses by redesigning supply chains to make them regenerative. In an interview with Regeneration International, Soloviev covers several topics related to regenerative agriculture, including what types of experiences you might want to get under your belt if you're contemplating a career in the fast-growing field of regenerative food, farming, and natural products. orgcns.org/2nb34oP

Support OCA's Regeneration International Project: orgcns.org/1knve2W

Dangerous Work

Children in many parts of the world will celebrate Easter with baskets full of chocolate. For the more than 2 million children in West Africa, forced into dangerous work on cocoa farms, chocolate is nothing to celebrate. Mondelez, the world's second-largest chocolate company (owner of the Cadbury Crème Egg, Marabou, Toblerone, and other brands) could make life better for cocoa farmers and their children. Instead, Mondelez's Cocoa Life program talks more about improving cocoa production and supply efficiency than it does about livelihoods and fair payments for farmers—most of whom make less than \$1 a day.

U.S. chocolate sales could reach \$25 billion a year in the next two years. Over \$2 billion of that is spent at Easter alone. But very little of that money gets to the farmers in countries like West Africa.

Buy chocolate from one of these Fair Brands: orgcns.org/1shlX7Y

In the meantime, tell Mondelez to pay cocoa farmers a fair price!

Take Action: orgcns.org/2oMIiib