



## Farming for Life

If you'd walked up to a farmer 100 years ago and told him farming would one day threaten life on Earth, he probably would have laughed in your face, saying such a thing simply isn't possible. Agriculture is necessary for food production, and therefore for life, the farmer would have said with firm conviction—and farming the land or raising cattle is not going to unduly harm anything or anyone. Today, we face an entirely different scenario. Virtually every growing environmental and health problem can be traced back to modern food production, including:

- Food insecurity and malnutrition amid mounting food waste
- Rising obesity and chronic disease rates despite growing health care outlays
- Diminishing fresh water supplies
- Toxic agricultural chemicals polluting air, soil and waterways, thereby threatening the entire food chain from top to bottom
- Disruption of normal climate and rainfall patterns

There are viable answers to all of these problems—but those answers hinge on how quickly we can transition from today's degenerative agriculture model to the widespread implementation of regenerative agriculture and decentralized food distribution.

[orgcns.org/2qiCNul](http://orgcns.org/2qiCNul)

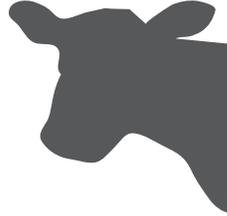
## Dow's Dastardly Deeds

With Monsanto looking to be acquired by Germany-based Bayer, is Dow Chemical taking over Monsanto's role of chief influence-buyer in Washington? Dow wasted no time wooing Trump—the poison-peddler ponied up \$1 million for the new president's inauguration festivities. Trump swiftly rewarded Dow by naming CEO Andrew Liveris to head a new White House manufacturing working group.

In February, after Trump signed an executive order aimed at rolling back regulations (including those on pesticides and GMOs), he handed the pen to Liveris. Fitting, given that Trump's new EPA chief, Scott Pruitt, was quick to overturn the Obama administration's proposed ban on one of Dow's moneymakers, chlorpyrifos, an organophosphate pesticide. (Pruitt's move prompted a lawsuit by environmental groups).

Now, it seems, just banning organophosphates isn't enough. A new AP report says lawyers for Dow and two other manufacturers of organophosphates are asking Trump's administration to throw out the EPA's own studies on the dangerous effects of chlorpyrifos and other organophosphates, known to lower IQs and cause neurological damage in children.

From the report: "Organophosphorus gas was originally developed as a chemical weapon by Nazi Germany. Dow has been selling Chlorpyrifos for spraying on citrus fruits, apples, cherries and other crops since the 1960s. It is among the most widely used agricultural pesticides in the United States, with Dow selling about 5 million pounds domestically each year. As a result, traces of the chemical are commonly found in sources of drinking water. A 2012 study at the University of California at Berkeley found that 87% of umbilical-cord blood samples tested from newborn babies contained detectable levels of chlorpyrifos." [orgcns.org/2oHfjOB](http://orgcns.org/2oHfjOB)



## Back to Grass

Grass-fed beef is better for your health than beef produced by factory farms. It's also better for the environment, animals and the climate. But here's something a lot of consumers aren't clear on: what does "grass-fed" actually mean, in terms of how animals are raised, what they're fed, and how meat is labeled? Is "grass-fed" the same as "grass-finished"? How do those terms (or labels) differ from "100% grass-fed"? And what's better—"USDA organic," "natural" or "organic grass-fed"?

*Back to Grass* addresses the labeling question (it's not straightforward, unfortunately), and also production, marketing and the future of the grass-fed beef market. The report was produced by the nonprofit Stone Barns Center for Food and Agriculture, in collaboration with numerous for-profit investment and market analysis firms. Beef gets a bad rap from a lot of well-meaning but misguided climate activists who, by not distinguishing between meat from cattle raised on grass using regenerative rotational grazing methods and meat produced by factory farms, miss the real story: When properly grazed, "Cows Save the Planet." [orgcns.org/2qweY2p](http://orgcns.org/2qweY2p)

## Join the Food Revolution

We have a food industry that often acts as if health doesn't matter, and a medical industry that acts as if food doesn't matter. The result? Diseases that were rare 100 years ago are now considered normal. Chronic conditions like heart disease, cancer, type 2 diabetes, and food allergies have gone from infrequent to epidemic.

Login to the free online Food Revolution Summit to hear what some of the world's top scientists, researchers and food activists have to say about food and health. Food revolution leader John Robbins will personally interview Dean Ornish, MD; Michael Greger, MD; Mark Hyman, MD; David Perlmutter, MD; Christiane Northrup, MD; Joel Fuhrman, MD, and many extraordinary speakers who will share their best tips on health, vitality, energy, disease prevention, and living well, longer.

[foodrevolutionsummit.org](http://foodrevolutionsummit.org)

## Steep Hill

On April 29, Washington hosted yet another march—the People's Climate March. The timing couldn't have been better. According to a recent report in *Scientific American*, the Mauna Loa Observatory recorded its first-ever carbon dioxide reading in excess of 410 ppm. Carbon dioxide hasn't reached that height in millions of years. We have the tools to reverse this trend. They're not fancy or expensive or new. We just have to use them. What's standing in our way of putting regenerative agriculture to work in the battle to stop runaway global warming? Corporate America's influence over food and farming policy. This week, Trump charged his new agriculture secretary, Sonny Perdue, with convening a task force euphemistically called "a task force on rural America." Far from hoping to improve the lives of rural Americans and rural farmers, the task force aims to make big corporations more profitable. Meanwhile, Perdue's predecessor, Tom Vilsack, may as well be working for Monsanto now. Vilsack, who helped kill GMO labeling, wrote an op-ed this week for *The Hill*, claiming that industrial agriculture (and Monsanto's GMOs) are the answer to fighting global warming—despite all evidence pointing to the contrary.

With corporations running our food and farming system, we've got a steep hill to climb. Tens of thousands started that climb by marching in Washington on April 29.