



Monsanto's Mess

Next month will mark one year since Congress obliterated Vermont's GMO labeling law and replaced it with its own faux-labeling measure. The DARK Act was an outright attack on consumer and states' rights. But then-President Obama refused to veto it.

We lost the right to labels on GMO foods. But we never lost our determination to expose Monsanto's corrupt manipulation of government agencies, or the truth about just how harmful Roundup herbicide is to humans and the environment.

Fast forward to today. Monsanto is facing down scores of lawsuits by people, or their families, who were diagnosed with non-Hodgkin lymphoma after being exposed to Roundup. Those lawsuits have led to revelations about possible collusion between Monsanto employees and former EPA officials to bury evidence of Roundup's carcinogenicity.

Meanwhile the EPA, perhaps fearing consumer backlash, has yet to rule on whether to renew the license for glyphosate (the active ingredient in Roundup), even though we're now nearly two years past the deadline.

Food companies are being sued, too, when product testing reveals that brands labeled "100% Natural" contain glyphosate residues. And the FDA recently announced it will resume testing of consumer foods for glyphosate.

Farmers are growing fewer GMO crops. Other countries are banning GMOs and glyphosate.

It's no wonder Monsanto can't wait to hand over the keys to Bayer. Things are getting messy. But for consumers and environmentalists, it's a beautiful mess. orgcns.org/2rXjTid

Real (Bad) News

In 2016, candidate Trump insulted Iowa voters when he tweeted: "Too much #Monsanto in the #corn creates issues in the brain?"

Don't be confused by Trump's tweets. And don't be fooled by the fake news that Melania Trump has banned Monsanto from the White House. These distractions hide the real news: The Trump Administration has just announced a new GMO deregulation scheme, and it's the most audacious effort to force dangerous, experimental "foods" onto the market since GMOs were first introduced in the 1990s.

Under Trump's new GMO deregulation plan, there would still be no safety testing or meaningful labeling of GMOs. There would still be nothing to protect organic and non-GMO crops from contamination—which isn't all that different than what we got from Obama and every president going back to George H.W. Bush.

What makes Trump's new scheme (a giant gift to Monsanto and Dow Chemical) unique is that it takes deregulation to a whole new level. If Trump's proposed regulations are finalized, they won't just change the way GMOs are treated by the government. They will cripple our capacity to launch marketplace campaigns to keep new GMOs out of the food supply—because we'll know even less about new GMOs in the pipeline, and where they're being tested. orgcns.org/2s1rVVr

GMO? NO!

Still Looking?

Fed up with how big corporations are interfering in local politics, in ways that strip cities and states of their right to local control? Tired of local officials saying NO to your right to pass local pesticide bans, to ban fracking, to reject the construction of factory farms, and to protect local water supplies from pollution, and local organic farmland from contamination caused by drifting GMO seeds and pesticides? If you're looking for a way to get involved—and have fun doing it—plug into our #Resist & #Regenerate Movement. orgcns.org/2qWTiwB

We, the People

A few of us from OCA attended the People's Summit last week in Chicago, where Sen. Bernie Sanders spoke to the crowd about the state of the political revolution. He started out by saying: "The American people are sick and tired of establishment politics and establishment economics." To which we say, Amen. Let's not forget that Sanders supported GMO labeling and opposed the DARK Act—a bill Obama could have vetoed, but didn't. Instead, Obama supported Monsanto, not consumers. We think it's time for both a #political revolution and a #consumer revolution. We agree with Bernie, that it's not up to him to lead the revolution—it's up to us.

orgcns.org/2sBq9LN

Um, No...

A new study published in the journal *Obesity Research & Clinical Practice* found, as reported in *The Atlantic*, that someone, in 2006, eating the same amount of calories, taking in the same quantities of macronutrients like protein and fat, and exercising the same amount as a person of the same age did in 1988, would have a BMI (Body Mass Index) that was about 2.3 points higher. The study's authors posited three possible explanations for their findings:

1. Today we're exposed to more chemicals—pesticides, flame retardants, the substances in food packaging—that may be messing with our hormones.
2. We're taking more drugs, especially antidepressants, many of which are linked to weight gain.
3. Our gut bacteria are changing, possibly because we're eating more meat—and that meat is now being treated with growth-promoting hormones and antibiotics.

It all makes sense. Except the statement by one of the study's authors, who told *The Atlantic* that the body weights of Americans today are influenced by "factors beyond their control." Noooooo... we can control our own exposure to pesticides, antidepressants, and factory farm meat. By going organic. And staying off drugs. What's more, we must continue to fight the corporate control of our food system that's led to this mess. orgcns.org/2rWnsoV

Grab Your Passport!

Join fellow adventurers, nature-enthusiasts, gardeners and organic activists for an 8-day eco-tour in the central highlands of Mexico. You'll stay at *Vía Orgánica's* educational farm, where you'll learn about the latest in organic regenerative farming and ranching. (*Vía Orgánica* is a project of OCA). The tours include tours to San Miguel de Allende and other World Heritage sites, trail rides, nature walks, horseback riding, and organic farming & cooking workshops. Our next two eco tours: Day of the Dead Tour (Oct. 30- Nov. 5, 2017): \$1,250/person. Experience the cultural phenomenon of *Día de los Muertos* (Day of the Dead), one of Mexico's most important cultural events, a traditional celebration in which the living remember and honor their departed relatives with festivals and lively celebrations.

Monarch Butterfly Tour (Feb. 15-22, 2018): \$1,500/person. We'll go on a 3-day trip to the state of Michoacán to visit a Monarch Butterfly Sanctuary, located within Mexico's Monarch Butterfly Biosphere Reserve, to witness the annual migration of the Monarch Butterfly. orgcns.org/1nqLReX