



Here's Why

Ben & Jerry's talks the talk about getting money out of politics. But make no mistake—the glyphosate we found in Ben & Jerry's ice cream is in there because Monsanto has spent Big Money to bury the truth about its cancer-causing Roundup weedkiller. It's not just Monsanto that profits from Roundup sales. Ben & Jerry's, owned by transnational consumer products conglomerate Unilever, profits, too. By sourcing milk from the industrial factory farm dairy industry, which feeds its cows glyphosate-drenched Roundup-Ready crops, Ben & Jerry's admittedly “maximizes” profits.

It's a lucky coincidence that we discovered weedkiller residues in Ben & Jerry's ice cream just as court documents revealing the extent to which Monsanto has lied about the safety of Roundup are coming to light.

Unilever and Ben & Jerry's know that 66% of consumers will pay more for, and remain loyal to products peddled by companies that say they're committed to positive social and environmental impact. But no way can Ben & Jerry's support the company's claim that it cares about the environment, much less social and economic justice or global warming, as long as it continues to profit by supporting an environmentally disastrous industrial dairy system, instead of Vermont's organic dairy farmers.

Ben & Jerry's has a real opportunity to make a real positive impact, instead of creating a phony perception. We're glad Ben & Jerry's wants to get money out of politics. It's time for the ice cream maker to also get glyphosate out of its ice cream—and out of our soil and waterways. Today, we're taking that argument to the streets. Take Action: organs.org/2jaLJTc

Banning the Ban

We thought we'd won this one. After OCA and many other groups called for a ban on a pesticide linked to brain damage in kids, the EPA, in 2015, finally agreed. Then the Trump Administration and the very pro-corporate (and apparently pro-poison) EPA Administrator, Scott Pruitt.

Ignoring the EPA's own science, Pruitt and his merry band of anti-regulators hand Dow, the maker of the poison chlorpyrifos, a win when they overturn the ban. In other words, they banned the ban.

Fortunately, a few members of Congress are still willing to take a stand against a potent neurotoxin that's known to cause lower IQs, memory loss and attention deficit disorders, especially in children whose brains are still developing. (Chlorpyrifos is often sprayed and can drift far beyond its target area. It's been detected in drinking water and in the air around schools, in addition to being associated with acute pesticide poisonings of workers directly on farms.)

Sen. Tom Udall (D-NM) has introduced a bill, to do what Pruitt's EPA won't—stop the use of this dangerous pesticide. It's a shame we now have to wait for this bill to crawl through our do-nothing federal legislative process. But if that's what it takes, let's ask our Congress members to support it.

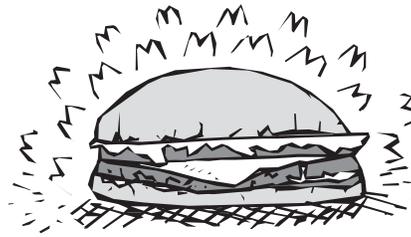
Take Action: organs.org/2vP9qpt

One More Reason

Last month, Beyond Pesticides reported on a review of studies what Roundup and glyphosate do to the quality of soil. The review, by Robert J. Kremer, PhD, of the University of Missouri School of Natural Resources, cites concerns that include: reduction of nutrient availability for plants and organisms; disruption to organism diversity, especially in the areas around plant roots; reductions of beneficial soil bacteria; increases in plant root pathogens; disturbed earthworm activity; reduced nitrogen fixing at plant roots; and compromised growth and reproduction in some soil and aquatic organisms. Just one more reason, as if we needed it, to rid the world of Roundup. organs.org/2wz6ziz

Impossibly Fake

A company called Impossible Foods, with \$257 million in venture capital funding, recently launched its fake, genetically engineered *Impossible Burger*—even though, the FDA can't say if the burger's “secret sauce”—soy leghemoglobin—is safe. How can Impossible Foods put soy leghemoglobin in food if the FDA hasn't deemed it safe? *The New York Times* explains: “The FDA's approval is not required for most new ingredients. Companies can hire consultants to run tests,



and they have no obligation to inform the agency of their findings, a process of self-affirmation.”

While you let that sink in... here's the

other half of that story. Impossible Foods asked the FDA to weigh in on the safety of its “secret sauce” ingredient, even though it wasn't required to. The agency did. This is what regulators wrote in a memo to Impossible Foods: “FDA believes the arguments presented, individually and collectively, do not establish the safety of soy leghemoglobin for consumption,” nor do they point to a general recognition of safety.”

Despite that statement, the Impossible Burger went to market. Because, as it turns out, a company can introduce into the food system a product or ingredient that the FDA says may not be safe—as long as the FDA doesn't say the product is unsafe.

That's one issue with the Impossible Burger. Here's the other. According to Max Goldberg, author of *Living Maxwell*, Impossible Foods uses genetic engineering to make the secret sauce that the FDA won't say is safe. In his column, which appeared on the same day as the *New York Times* article, Goldberg raised the question of genetic engineering, and whether Impossible Foods is misleading consumers. Goldberg explains how the Impossible Burger is made:

The key to the Impossible Burger is making the burger look and taste like a regular hamburger. Impossible Foods accomplishes this, at scale, through genetic engineering.

Impossible Foods begins with the gene for a protein called leghemoglobin, a heme protein that is naturally found in the root nodules of soy plants. It then takes a strain of genetically-engineered yeast and adds the soy leghemoglobin gene, and proceeds to grow the yeast via the fermentation process. The company isolates the leghemoglobin, or heme, from the yeast and adds that genetically-engineered protein to the Impossible Burger.

To read the company's website, however, you'd be hard pressed to figure out if you're eating GMO. And that may be intentional.

Michael Hansen, senior scientist at Consumers Union, told Goldberg: “The way in which Impossible Foods is loosely and interchangeably using the word “heme” is misleading consumers. The average person with no scientific background would reasonably read the FAQ section of this website and think that the genetically-engineered heme in the Impossible Burger is ‘identical’ to the heme that humans have been consuming for hundreds of thousands of years in meat and other foods. This is categorically not true.” organs.org/2wzgXqy