



Just Deserts

On October 11, members of the European Parliament will hear from scientists, campaigners, regulators and others about allegations that Monsanto “unduly influenced regulatory studies” about the safety of glyphosate, the key ingredient in Roundup weedkiller. The EU Parliament won’t hear from Monsanto. Why? Monsanto lobbyists are now banned from entering the EU Parliament because the company refused to send its CEO to the meeting. Monsanto officials were asked to attend and respond to questions related to incriminating documents that came to light as a result of lawsuits filed against the company by people who say Roundup caused their non-Hodgkin lymphoma cancer—and Monsanto knew of the risk, but hid the evidence.

The Guardian called the Parliament’s decision a “bitter blow” to Monsanto, which will now “be unable to meet MEPS, attend committee meetings or use digital resources on parliament premises in Brussels or Strasbourg.” Bitter blow? Or maybe just deserts?

The EU is supposed to decide by December 15 whether to continue to allow the use of glyphosate. (The U.S. EPA, which was supposed to make a similar ruling in 2015, is still stalling). France and Italy say they want glyphosate off the market. Germany’s position remains unclear.

orgcns.org/2x3wMts

A Better Idea

October 16 is World Food Day. It’s also the day that Monsanto and its agrochemical cronies will be in Iowa, celebrating the bounties of industrial agriculture (in other words, their massive profits) at the corporation-run “World Food Prize” events. We think there are better ways to celebrate World Food Day: Join the 4 per 1000: Soils for Food Security and Climate Initiative: 4p1000.org/act

Take Action: orgcns.org/2gcy3nv

Attend the 2017 Food Sovereignty Prize Live Ceremony (online): orgcns.org/2yAoBCc

Join the World Food Day Thunderclap for a global ban on Monsanto’s Roundup: orgcns.org/2yAfnJ7

Donate to Regeneration International: orgcns.org/1knvezW

Soul of Organic?

Are you OK with putting the “USDA Organic” seal on food grown indoors, under artificial light, with a man-made cocktail of liquid nutrients feeding exposed roots? Do you think the term “certified organic” should be reserved for food grown in living earth, nourished by sunlight, fresh air and the complex interactions between plant roots and soil microbiology? The National Organic Standards Board (NOSB), which will meet Oct. 31-Nov. 2, is set to rule on whether vegetables grown hydroponically, without soil, can be certified organic.

Who’s In favor? Mostly Big Ag companies, such as Wholesum Harvest and Driscoll’s, that want to replace organic farms with organic factories. And Scotts Miracle-Gro, one of the biggest suppliers of the nutrients, growth mediums, containers, irrigation systems and lighting required for hydroponics, or soil-less crop production. Scotts is also the exclusive distributor of Monsanto’s Roundup herbicide. Take action by midnight Oct. 11: orgcns.org/2wu0F5o — Or text SOIL to 97779 to sign.

Join the Keep the Soil in Organic events happening across the country this month, culminating in a rally outside the NOSB meeting in Jacksonville, Fla., on October 31. orgcns.org/2yC3mTO

No Peace!

Unilever-owned Ben & Jerry’s likes to use the phrase “Peace, Love & Ice Cream.” But if anti-factory farm consumers have anything to say about it, there will be no peace for the ice cream maker until the company goes organic. So far, over 100 OCA network members have signed up to distribute leaflets in front of Ben & Jerry Scoop Shops or natural food stores such as Whole Foods that sell Ben and Jerry’s.



Want to help keep the pressure on Ben & Jerry’s? New to leafleting and not sure how to get started? Our team is ready to help. Sign up here. We’ll send you everything you need: orgcns.org/2ujWsox

Folta’s Falsehoods

Monsanto cheerleader Kevin Folta is no stranger to OCA. Folta dogged us relentlessly in 2012, 2013 and 2014, when we were part of a coalition working to pass laws that would require labels on GMO foods. Most recently, Folta attacked us for revealing that Ben & Jerry’s ice cream is contaminated with glyphosate—news that was reported by the *New York Times*. Now Folta, chairman of the Horticulture Sciences Department at University of Florida, is suing the *Times* and Pulitzer Prize winner Eric Lipton, for allegedly misrepresenting him as a “covertly paid operative of one of the largest and most controversial companies in America, Monsanto.” Folta claims the *Times*, and Lipton, misrepresented him in order “to further their own anti GMO’ agenda.” That’s quite an accusation, coming from someone who’s made a career out of, well, lying.

In a well-documented and detailed fact sheet, US Right to Know, an independent nonprofit partially funded by OCA, spells out just how deceitful Folta, who has referred to the food movement as a “terrorist faction,” has been about his relationship with Monsanto. orgcns.org/2xUblMm Support U.S. Right to Know, an independent nonprofit that investigates Monsanto and Big Food: orgcns.org/1GAs0Mm

Dying to Eat

For all Monsanto’s bluster about “feeding the world,” the truth is this: Globally, 3.9 billion people are either hungry or malnourished, according to ETC Group. Now, a new global study (billed as the most comprehensive of its kind) says poor diet, which often leads to obesity, kills one in five people. The Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation, which coordinated the study, said: “One of the most alarming risks in the GBD is excess body weight. The rate of illness related to people being too heavy is rising quickly, and the disease burden can be found in all sociodemographic levels. High body mass index (BMI) is the fourth largest contributor to the loss of healthy life, after high blood pressure, smoking, and high blood sugar.”

Who’s to blame for the foods that are killing us? Big Food, mostly. The *New York Times* recently reported on the rise of obesity in Ghana, which not coincidentally corresponded to the rising presence in U.S. companies like Kentucky Fried Chicken (KFC) “But KFC’s expansion here comes as obesity and related health have been surging. Public health officials see fried chicken, French fries and pizza as spurring and intensifying a global obesity epidemic that has hit hard in Ghana – one of 73 countries where obesity has at least doubled since 1980. Obesity rates have surged more than 650% since 1980 from less than 2% of population to 13.6%. orgcns.org/2hNdeTl