



Rural Regeneration, Not Walls

It's one of the most politically charged debates today, especially in the U.S. and Europe—the so-called “immigration crisis.”

Inter Press News Service reports: “Recent elections around the world have clearly shown growing public support for candidates and political parties advocating the deportation of migrants and stricter restrictions on immigration, including halting it altogether. At the same time, opposition, challenges and resistance to deportations and immigration restrictions have become more widespread, visible and vocal.”

Is there a better solution than building walls?

OCA's Ronnie Cummins recently participated in the Summit on Migrants and Returnees in Quetzaltenango (Xela), Guatemala, where he heard this over and over from attendees: If people could make decent livings in their own countries and communities, they'd much rather stay home, than migrate to where they aren't wanted.” Could the creation of local, grassroots-powered economic development projects based on regenerative food, farming and land-use practices make that possible? Regenerative agriculture projects are already popping up in rural communities—in Guatemala, Mexico and Honduras. They are restoring local food sovereignty, healthy soils—and hope. orgcns.org/2zcfGoT

Up a Notch

Many of you have written us recently about your experiences handing out leaflets in front of stores that sell Ben & Jerry's ice cream, including scoop shops and grocery stores. You've talked to a lot of consumers about why we need to boycott Ben & Jerry's until the Unilever-owned brand commits to transitioning to 100% organic. Thank you!

But there's someone else who needs to stop buying Ben & Jerry's ice cream—and that “someone” is your local food co-op or natural food/health store.

Some of these stores, who cater to conscious consumers like you, carry only organic ice cream. But some of them also carry glyphosate-contaminated Ben & Jerry's. Not only that, many of these stores display Ben & Jerry's ice cream right next to the organic brands they sell—a move that misleads consumers into thinking Ben & Jerry's ice cream is organic, too.

But here's the real kicker. In doing some preliminary research of our own, we've found that some natural food/health stores and co-ops not only sell Ben & Jerry's, they sell it for the same price, or more, than the organic brands on their shelves!

That's why this week, we're asking you to start pressuring your local stores to #dumpBenandJerry's. Please find out if your co-op or natural food store sells Ben & Jerry's. If the answer is yes, please download this letter: orgcns.org/2zYlMdX and take it to your store manager. Then fill out this questionnaire: orgcns.org/2iE127X. We know we've got the attention of Ben & Jerry's and its parent company, Unilever. But we don't yet have the company's commitment to transition to 100% organic. So let's kick things up a notch.

Not This Guy

Trump's pick for top scientist at the USDA—Sam Clovis, a non-scientist—has yet to be confirmed. But Clovis is making news—for his “polite” role in the alleged goings-on between the Trump presidential campaign and certain shady characters in Russia. Maybe this would be a good time to remind your Senators that the title “Chief Scientist” ought to go to, well... an actual scientist. Not a climate-denier. Not a loyal Trump campaigner.

According to the 2008 Farm Bill, nominations for the top USDA scientist position are required to go to “distinguished scientists with specialized or significant experience in agricultural research, education, and economics.” Clovis meets exactly none of those requirements. Take Action: orgcns.org/2xoeDta

100% GMO-Free!

A coalition of 100 mayors in the Philippines have joined forces to rid their cities of GMOs and pesticides—and they mean business!



While in Manila for the AgriLink Agri-Business Conference, Regeneration International's Oliver Gardiner filmed the mayors signing on to the League of Organic Agriculture Municipalities and Cities (LOAMC). LOAMC is an initiative of the Organic Trade Producer Association and Ecoveritas.

Could organic consumers and concerned citizens convince mayors in cities around the U.S. to follow the lead of these forward-thinking Filipino mayors? Watch: orgcns.org/2yodsas
Show your support for Mayor Arnado: orgcns.org/2h7jvcv
Start a local Regeneration Movement: orgcns.org/2yszFnu
Support Regeneration International: orgcns.org/1knve2W

'Expensive' Food

Two new studies call attention to the link between pesticides and health problems and how widespread those issues are.

The International Panel of Experts on Sustainable Food Systems and The Global Alliance for the Future of Food published a 120-page report that says, among other things, that the industrial food system is mostly to blame for our “staggering” health-care costs.

And a new study in the journal JAMA Internal Medicine found that women who consume fruits and vegetables with high amounts of pesticide residue are less likely to conceive—and if they do, more likely to miscarry.

The Rodale Institute pulled these numbers, representing the healthcare-related costs of our industrial food system, from the IPES-Food report:

\$760 billion yearly cost of obesity (global estimate for 2025)

\$673 billion yearly cost of diabetes (global number for 2012)

\$3.5 trillion global cost of malnutrition

\$557 billion cost of endocrine disruptor exposure (U.S., EU)

Not on the list? The cost—financial, physical and emotional—of infertility treatments.

More from the IPES-Food report:

“...many of the most severe health impacts trace back to some of the core industrial food and farming practices, e.g., chemical-intensive agriculture; intensive livestock production; and the mass production and mass marketing of ultra-processed foods. The next time someone tells you organic food is “too expensive,” um...” orgcns.org/2h6JfFS

Support the OCA

In the coming weeks and months we hope you'll join us in building local, community-focused regeneration core groups all over this country. Because it's up to all of us to create a food and farming system that works for everyone, not just a few greedy corporations. Your generosity makes this work possible. Thank you. Donate to the Organic Consumers Association (tax-deductible, helps support our work on behalf of organic standards, fair trade and public education): orgcns.org/1OLd6Zm

Donate to Organic Consumers Fund (for our GMO labeling legislative efforts, non-tax-deductible): orgcns.org/1MrPDi7