



## Expiration Date?

At the height of the GMO labeling battle, we not-so-fondly referred to the Grocery Manufacturers Association (GMA) as “Monsanto’s Evil Twin.”

Last week, a former GMA executive told Politico that to him, the food industry lobbying group seems like “the dinosaur waiting to die.”

For consumers who blame the GMA for engineering the defeat of four state ballot initiatives that would have required labels on genetically engineered foods, then teaming up with Monsanto and some Big Organic brands to ram through federal legislation that stripped states of the right to pass GMO labeling laws, visions of the GMA drawing its last bullying breath are accompanied by the sweet taste of karma. Consumers can take satisfaction in the fact that they’ve played a role in what some say is the diminishing power of the GMA over Washington policy. For many, gratification—even the delayed variety—is worth stirring up trouble in the marketplace if it results in brands cleaning up their acts on issues of health, transparency and accountability. [orgcns.org/2k261fQ](http://orgcns.org/2k261fQ)

## Fowl Project

Retail giant Costco wants to build the largest chicken factory farm in the U.S., in Fremont, Nebraska. The city’s elected officials have approved the project. But the people and farmers in surrounding cities, whose lives will suffer the most, are fighting back. Costco and the Fremont City Council are singing the same old tired tune, that a giant factory farm will bring jobs to the city. What they don’t want Fremont residents to know, is that those jobs will be low-paid and dangerous, that the water pollution generated from another huge factory farm will be devastating for Nebraskans, whose water is already badly compromised by agricultural runoff, and that local farmers will get ripped off under contracts stacked in favor of the retail giant.

We’re so impressed with what Nebraska Communities United is doing to stop this project—including organizing workshops to help local farmers farm profitably, sustainably and independent of corporate control, that we’re asking you to do two things.

First, please let Costco know that consumers want chicken raised regeneratively and humanely—without antibiotics and other drugs.

Second, please contribute if you can to help Nebraska Communities United and the Nebraska Farmers Union fund an important water impact study and workshops for local farmers.

The industrial factory farm model has proven to be a failure. It’s time for companies like Costco to invest in organic regenerative farming operations—not more factory farms. Take Action: [orgcns.org/2z1oWF5](http://orgcns.org/2z1oWF5)

Call Costco’s customer service line: 800-774-2678. If you’re a member, tell them you’ll cancel your membership unless Costco halts its factory farm project.

Make a tax-deductible donation: [orgcns.org/2ABfXXn](http://orgcns.org/2ABfXXn)

## Generous Offer

For the past several years, Mercola has been a strong financial supporter of OCA. The online health site also contributed millions to support GMO labeling initiatives and other campaigns to expose corporate wrongdoing and promote healthy food. If you’d like to support a company that’s aligned with your values, we’ve got good news. Through Dec. 31, 2017, get 20% off a wide range of Mercola products. Plus for every item you purchase using this promo code, ORGANIC1217, Mercola will also donate 20% of the product price to OCA.

This month, we’re featuring two of Mercola’s best-selling products: Complete Probiotics and Krill Oil. But you can also use the promo code for most other products, including organic essential oils, organic sheets and towels and organic body care products. Use this coupon code: **ORGANIC1217** for 20% off at [shop.mercola.com](http://shop.mercola.com)

## Birds on the Move



What makes a chicken a chicken? Living outdoors, soaking up the sun, foraging for insects. As it turns out, the things that make a chicken a chicken, also make the chicken on your dinner plate more nutritious, less fattening and better tasting.

In this video by the American Pastured Poultry Producers Association, farmers who raise chickens right describe how their methods make for a healthier environment and more humanely treated birds.

Their stories are the antithesis of the factory farm poultry story, where factories (not farms) pollute waterways, cheat farmers, produce contaminated meat and create nightmarish living conditions for the birds. [youtu.be/PdLnFsjQcXg](http://youtu.be/PdLnFsjQcXg)

Find a pastured poultry farmer near you: [appa.org/directory](http://appa.org/directory)

## No Joke

For the third year in a row, Regeneration International (RI), an independent nonprofit supported by OCA, sent a delegation to the global climate summit. Our delegation this year was smaller than those in 2015 and 2016, but it was a diverse and powerful group that represented us at COP23 in Bonn, Germany. In her report, Ercilia Sahores (who represented RI and OCA, along with others), wrote: “Our delegation consisted of: a German-French, an English-French, a Zimbabwean and an Argentine. What sounds like the beginning of a joke—a German, an Englishman, a Zimbabwean and an Argentine walk into a bar—turned out to be a great combination of different skill sets, languages, cultures, experiences... and lots of porridge for breakfast.

Ercilia produced this report on RI’s growing collaboration with France’s 4 per 1000: Soils for Food Security and Climate Initiative, our collaborative “Speed up the Cool Down” event, and other agriculture-related news from COP23. [orgcns.org/2AG1Yx](http://orgcns.org/2AG1Yx)

Sign up for the RI newsletter: [orgcns.org/2AEPV3n](http://orgcns.org/2AEPV3n)

Support RI with a tax-deductible donation: [orgcns.org/1knve2W](http://orgcns.org/1knve2W)

## Precautionary Tale

Confronted by powerful companies like Monsanto, Dow, Syngenta and others, companies that manipulate the media, scientific research, regulatory agencies and the legal system, it’s tempting to just give up. But we shouldn’t. Ever.

Meet an organic dairy farmer who spoke up when his hay was poisoned by pesticide drift... a pediatrician who rallied other medical professionals to protect the soil, water, and air for her local patients... a hairdresser whose salon conversations mobilized the women in her town... and other unlikely activists, who orchestrated a winning campaign against pesticides in a small town in Northern Italy.

*A Precautionary Tale: How One Small Town Banned Pesticides, Preserved Its Food Heritage, and Inspired a Movement*, by Philip Ackerman-Leist, is a story of direct democracy in action. Ackerman-Leist’s book serves as a lesson to all of us on how to fight back, and why we must.

Buy *A Precautionary Tale*: [chelseagreen.com/a-precautionary-tale](http://chelseagreen.com/a-precautionary-tale)