



Darkest Hour

Welcome to Degeneration Nation 2018. The frightening truth is that our “profit-at-any-cost” economy and global empire, run by and for the one percent and multi-national corporations, aided and abetted by an out-of-control Congress and White House, threatens our very survival. Our system of democracy, global co-existence, our physical and mental health and the health of the living Earth—our climate, soils, forests, wetlands, watersheds, and oceans—is rapidly degenerating. The rhythms of nature—the atmosphere, the soil carbon cycle, the water cycle and the climate—are unraveling.

Which is more frightening? The destruction of the environment and the climate that sustain human civilization as we have known it? Or the collapse of democracy and the rise of endless war and fascism? Even though many are still either in denial or preoccupied by the daily struggle for survival, the most serious threat that humans have ever encountered in our 150,000-year evolution is global warming and severe climate change. What are we going to do about it? orgcns.org/2FAurGl

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Treacherous Treadmill

Over and over we hear it from the chemical industry: The only way to feed the world’s burgeoning population is to use herbicides and pesticides and chemical fertilizers.

But as we heard last year from Hilal Elver, the United Nations special rapporteur on the right to food: “It is a myth. Using more pesticides is nothing to do with getting rid of hunger. According to the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), we are able to feed 9 billion people today. Production is definitely increasing, but the problem is poverty, inequality and distribution.”

Now a new study, published in the peer-reviewed journal *Nature Plants*, concludes that almost all farms could significantly cut their pesticide use without seeing a drop in food production. Gee, you mean chemical companies have been lying to farmers? And us? According to the *Guardian*, which reported on the latest study, many farmers would love to ditch the poisons, largely for health reasons. So why don’t they? Farmers lack good information about safer, environmentally friendly alternatives. That’s because they get most of their advice from chemical company reps who sell both the seeds (many needlessly pre-coated with pesticides and/or genetically engineered to withstand massive amounts of chemicals like Monsanto’s glyphosate) and of course the pesticides that go with those seeds.

Nicolas Munier-Jolain, at France’s National Institute for Agricultural Research, and one of the study’s authors, called the results “striking.” Munier-Jolain told the *Guardian*: “If you want real reduction in pesticide use, give the farmers the information about how to replace them. This is absolutely not the case at the moment. A large proportion of advice is provided by organizations that are both selling the pesticides and collecting the crops. I am not sure the main concern of these organizations is to reduce the amount of pesticide used.”

orgcns.org/2nzoqlF

Enough!

More than 23 million hogs producing 10 billion gallons of liquid manure a year, equal to the amount of manure produced in the UK, France and Canada combined—that’s what Iowans have to deal with. And that’s why they’re saying “enough is enough.” Diane Rosenberg, executive director of Jefferson County Farmers & Neighbors (JCFN), spoke at a press conference earlier this month in Iowa. JCFN is a member of the Iowa Alliance

for Responsible Agriculture, a coalition of 27 state, community and national organizations that addresses everything that’s wrong with factory farms, or as Big Ag calls them, confined animal feeding operations (CAFOs).

Rosenberg said: “We are pro agriculture. We support responsible, respectful and regenerative livestock production that poses no harm to communities and the environment. And we call for a moratorium on new and

expanding CAFOs until there are less than 100 water impairments in Iowa. We are here today to support and announce a slate of bills introduced by Sen. David Johnson to close many of the loopholes that weaken protections for people and the environment from factory farms.”

After Rosenberg spoke, a local farmer whose family farm is under threat thanks to two new CAFOs in her neighborhood, explained how her community did everything to stop these factory farms, but “the system in Iowa failed us. The DNR regulations failed us. All we want is clean air and water. We want to continue to live on our family farms.” orgcns.org/2EwUZZM

Et Tu, Newsweek?

Last week we reported on the latest antics of Henry Miller, one of Monsanto’s favorite minions. This week, we’re asking you to let Miller’s latest aider and abettor—*Newsweek*—know what you think. To recap: *Newsweek* recently published an op-ed authored (or so *Newsweek* and Miller said) by Miller. As detailed by Stacy Malkan, co-director of US Right to Know, Miller’s op-ed was a poorly sourced, misleading attack on organics. And based on Miller’s scandalous past, it’s not a stretch to surmise that Monsanto had a hand in writing the piece. After all, Miller was banished from the pages of *Forbes* magazine, after the *New York Times* revealed that the piece he wrote for *Forbes* had actually been written by Monsanto.

So why is he still allowed to peddle his opinions to *Newsweek* readers?

orgcns.org/2EwRySH

Tweet @NWapshott and @Newsweek. Take Action: orgcns.org/2E7nT2a

Support the OCA & OCF

If we want to transform this country’s industrial agribusiness model to an organic regenerative one, we’ll have to throw ourselves into working for change in our own communities. We’re already seeing it happen. Local citizens saying “no” to more factory farms. Local communities saying “no” to pesticides. Voters asking tough questions about food and agriculture when considering which candidates to support for local offices. We just need more of us. In more places. Please make a tax-deductible donation to the Organic Consumers Association: orgcns.org/2mi4ymJ

Make a tax-deductible donation to OCA’s Millions Against Monsanto Campaign: orgcns.org/2CmChCS

Support OCA’s grassroots lobbying efforts (donations to our 501(c) 4 lobbying arm are not deductible): orgcns.org/1MrPDi7

