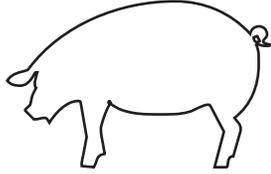




## So (Not) Promising

Everyone loves a feel-good story about the future. You've probably heard this one: High-tech foods enhanced by science will feed the 9 billion people expected on the planet by 2050. The theory (which is really just industry spin) is that food made in labs, and crops and animals genetically engineered to grow faster and better, will make it possible to feed the crowded world. "6th grade students brainstorming big biotech ideas to #Feedthe9" touted a recent tweet tagged to the chemical industry's promotional website GMOAnswers. Student ideas included "breed carrots to have more vitamins" and "corn that will grow in harsh winter conditions." It all sounds so promising, writes Stacy Malkan, co-director of U.S. Right to Know—until you look at the realities behind the rhetoric. [orgcns.org/2HemlFv](http://orgcns.org/2HemlFv)



## Speaking of...

Speaking of GMO animals, wait 'til you hear what kind of GMO animals Recombinetics, Inc., the "Monsanto of the genetically modified animal industry," wants to unleash on the market.

Among other things, Recombinetics wants to genetically engineer pigs specifically to withstand a miserable life in factory farms.

Not only that, but the St. Paul-based biotech company wants to keep the FDA from having anything to do with regulating GMO pigs, or any other GMO animals that could end up in the U.S. food supply.

If the company's plan succeeds, this would be the most drastic deregulation of biotechnology to date—and gene editing is just too risky to deregulate. Take Action: [orgcns.org/2GT1Tfi](http://orgcns.org/2GT1Tfi)

## Billions Against Bayer?

What happens when you marry a drug company with a pesticide company? We're about to find out. The U.S. Department of Justice this week approved the \$66-billion acquisition of Monsanto by Germany-based Bayer—so much for making America great again.

The big shots at Monsanto and Bayer spewed the usual nonsense about how all they care about is helping farmers and feeding the world. But Mark Connelly, an agriculture analyst at the brokerage and investment group CLSA Americas, told *Business Insider*: "Let's just cut to the chase: These companies want to make more money, they want to raise prices. No company in this industry needs these deals in order to innovate."

What does the mega-merger mean for consumers? *Fortune*, which is not exactly anti-big deals, wrote: "...consumers could see prices go up not only on agricultural products, but also on the umpteen products that hide corn and soybean inputs such as gas. The Bayer-Monsanto deal is big enough on its own to create cause for concern. It's even more worrying in the wake of the ChemChina-Syngenta takeover and Dow Chemical's merger with DuPont."

If things get bad enough for conventional commodity crop growers, with Trump's trade wars and now this merger, will we see more farmers transition to organic regenerative agriculture?

[orgcns.org/2EwMix1](http://orgcns.org/2EwMix1)

## Trump's Food-Safety Denier

He defended Michael Vick's dogfighting. He followed environmental lawyer Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. across the country to bash his anti-factory farm speeches. He went undercover to spy on animal rights group Farm Sanctuary. Now radio show host Trent Looos, whose audience includes people who believe, among other things, that the Endangered Species Act is a government conspiracy to run ranchers off their land, is a member of Trump's Agriculture Advisory Committee.

Looos might be the only agricultural voice in America willing to publicly defend horse slaughter, antibiotics in chicken production and the GMO recombinant bovine growth hormone (rBGH) used in milk. And he's got Trump's ear. [orgcns.org/2HhCBla](http://orgcns.org/2HhCBla)

## Organic? That Depends

Ever wonder if the eggs you eat are really organic? According to a recent PBS NewsHour segment, the answer to that question is: "It depends on who you ask." Under the USDA National Organic Program, organic eggs must come from chickens that are raised cage-free, fed an organic diet grown without pesticides, managed without antibiotics and hormones, and have seasonal access to the outdoors.

But not all organic egg producers agree on the definition of "outdoor access." In fact, their definitions, and practices, can differ immensely.

For example, White Oak Pastures in southwestern Georgia has about 4,000 egg-laying chickens that are pasture-raised. By contrast, Country Hen in central Massachusetts houses 80,000 chickens mostly indoors, allotting 1.5 square feet per bird—"outside access" for all those birds amounts to a covered porch. Very different practices, but both labeled organic. [orgcns.org/2qoKaCo](http://orgcns.org/2qoKaCo)

## Going Somewhere

Truth be told, we get discouraged sometimes. Like when we find out that Costco wants to build the largest chicken factory farm in the U.S. in a small Nebraska town, making an already bad water situation worse. Or when we learn that a company called Nordic Aquafarms wants to turn 40 acres of beautiful land in Maine into the world's largest salmon factory farm—with little thought to the environmental consequences or the economic impact on local seafood suppliers.

"Conventional" thinking says these projects are "good for business."

Common sense, backed by hard science, says these projects will benefit no one except a few wealthy corporate bigwigs.

Fortunately, when our spirits sink, we're reminded that consumers and farmers and good people everywhere know that the industrial agriculture model is broken, that it must change, and that we must take responsibility for making it change.

We are constantly reminded that without you, we'd have a tough time pushing ahead. Thank you for your generous and ongoing support.

Make a tax-deductible donation to the OCA: [orgcns.org/2mi4ymJ](http://orgcns.org/2mi4ymJ)

Make a tax-deductible donation to OCA's Millions Against Monsanto campaign: [orgcns.org/2CmChCS](http://orgcns.org/2CmChCS)

Support Citizens Regeneration Lobby (CRL), OCA's sister lobbying organization. Donations to CRL, a 501(c)(4) nonprofit, are not tax-deductible: [orgcns.org/2pMNYxU](http://orgcns.org/2pMNYxU)