



Not COOL!

You know if the tomatoes you buy in the supermarket were imported from Mexico. You know if the sweater you purchased was made in Vietnam. You know if the chicken you toss in our grocery cart was imported from another country. Under Country of Origin Labeling (COOL) laws, these products are required to carry labels that tell you if the product was imported from another country.

Beef and pork? Those products are exempt from COOL laws. You have no idea where our steak and bacon came from, unless the producer chooses to label it.

U.S. cattle ranchers say the failure to require COOL labels on beef is hurting their industry. That's especially true for ranchers serving the fast-growing grassfed segment of the beef industry says Will Harris, president of the board of directors of the American Grassfed Association and a fourth-generation cattleman. Harris says American consumers are being intentionally misled. He estimates that at least 75% of the grassfed beef consumed in America comes from Australia, New Zealand or Uruguay—but it's being wrongly labeled as "Product of the USA." orgcns.org/2KOKsLu

Flying in the Dark

Amazon is selling GMO apples, under the brand name Arctic ApBitz Dried Apple Snacks. According to the packaging and advertising, these apples are "wholesome, preservative-free, 100% apples." What mother wouldn't want to feed these apples to her kids? Probably the mother who finds out that these "wholesome, 100% apples" are 100% GMO. Arctic ApBitz Dried Apple Snacks are made with GMO apples. But you'd never know it—because neither Amazon nor the snack maker use the words "GMO" or "genetically engineered" anywhere on the package, or in their advertising. Here's what the scientists we interviewed said about the technology used to engineer the Arctic Apple, or as some call it, the Frankenapple: "Given that the dsRNA from our food, and presumably the Frankenapple, will enter the bloodstream and cells of consumers, safety research should be done before this GMO apple is put on the grocery shelf to prove that the dsRNA that enters consumers' bodies will not harm them. To date, no such research has been reported, so the Frankenapple is flying in the dark."

Another day, another brand (and retailer) hiding the truth about what's really in your "food." Take Action: orgcns.org/2GZipqq



Bad to Worse?

Whew! Last week, the U.S. House voted down the House version (H.R. 2) of the Farm Bill, a bill that could cripple conservation programs intended to promote organic and regenerative agriculture practices.

Unfortunately, this terrible Farm Bill was defeated for reasons that have nothing to do with food or agriculture. Worse yet, it will be back. The House is set to vote on H.R. 2 again, on June 22.

We're waiting to see what's in Senate's Farm Bill, which could end up being just as bad for organic standards as the House version. The Senate is also expected to vote in June. But unlike the House version, the Senate's bill will be bipartisan—which means it's sure to pass.

We'd like to think that the Organic Trade Association would stand with consumers to oppose attempts to use the Farm Bill to erode organic standards. That's not likely, given the group's track record. Our best hope is that dysfunction in the House will force Congress to extend the 2014 Farm Bill and give us another chance for a better Farm Bill, when the new Congress takes office in 2019. In the meantime, please let your Senators know that you want them to protect organic standards. Take Action: orgcns.org/2sxxkmlh

Justice at Last?

A judge in California is poised to decide if Monsanto has been getting away with murder. Reporting for *The Guardian*, Carey Gillam writes: "At the age of 46, DeWayne Johnson is not ready to die. But with cancer spread through most of his body, doctors say he probably has just months to live. Now Johnson, a husband and father of three in California, hopes to survive long enough to make Monsanto take the blame for his fate."

According to Gillam, on June 18, Johnson will become the first person to face down Monsanto in a courtroom over allegations that the biotech giant has long known that its Roundup weed-killer causes cancer—but has deliberately hidden the truth from farmers and consumers. And, Gillam writes, Johnson's case just received a major boost: "Last week Judge Curtis Karnow issued an order clearing the way for jurors to consider not just scientific evidence related to what caused Johnson's cancer, but allegations that Monsanto suppressed evidence of the risks of its weed-killing products. Karnow ruled that the trial will proceed and a jury would be allowed to consider possible punitive damages."

Will Johnson prevail? And set the precedent for hundreds of similar lawsuits to come? All eyes will be watching. orgcns.org/2xcVGHM

Pet Project

We know that humans increasingly test positive for residues of glyphosate, the active ingredient in Monsanto's Roundup weedkiller. If you've been exposed to glyphosate—by breathing it, drinking it or by consuming glyphosate residues on your food—could your dog be at risk, too? A new pilot study shows that dogs are likely to have even higher levels—up to 5000% higher—of glyphosate in their bodies than what testing has detected so far in humans.

"In a pilot study, we noticed that dogs' glyphosate levels were, on average, 50 times higher than people's," said Dr. John Fagan, chief scientist at HRI Labs and former researcher at the National Institutes of Health. "Recent biomedical research suggests harm to health at these levels, and even lower," he added.

To follow up on the pilot study, HRI Labs has launched a citizen science research project. The lab will work with pet owners to determine why animals have such a high exposure to glyphosate. orgcns.org/2sfFhod

'This Farm Is Medicine'

Murray Provine used to be a steak-and-potatoes type of guy living a no-exercise, traveling-executive lifestyle. All that changed after Provine was diagnosed with prostate cancer. Luckily, radiation destroyed Provine's tumor. He got a second chance. That's when Provine decided it was time for him to eat right and take control of his own health. He knew his body was full of toxins. It needed to heal itself. One way to do that, he decided, was to start growing his own food. Under the tutelage of rancher and consultant Allen Williams, Provine converted his 110-acre horse property in Clarksville, GA, into an Adaptive Multi-Paddock grazing farm. Three years later, Provine and his land are in much better health—a fact well-documented in Peter Byck's most recent film, "This Farm is Medicine." orgcns.org/2HajHin